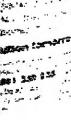
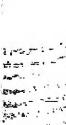
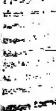
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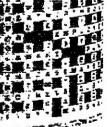


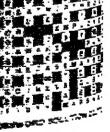




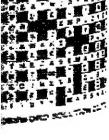


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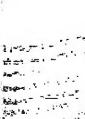










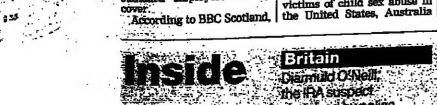












Diamilid O'Neilt the IPA suspect shot dead by police in London, was buried in a hillside cemetery

in Cork, Ireland...

liability cover on payment of additional premiums against

claims arising from abuse

cases. The Catholic Church has

faced million dollar settle-

ments for claims brought by

victims of child sex abuse in

deleine Burting
Iglous Affairs Editor

WHE Catholic Church

HE Catholic Church

flatly rejected media UK in the early 1990s special reports yesterday of a liability cover on payment of

World News Boris Yeltsin used hospital radio to demonstrate to the Russian nation he was still in charge by broadcasting a six-minute message.

Finance British Gas rejected the . plans to impose hefty price cuts,

industry watchdog's worth an annual £28 to the average home.

Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson. at the Labour Party conference, moaned about having to play too many games. too close together.

Obituaries 10 Friday Review Crossword 15: Weather 16 TV 16; Radio 16

the Catholic National Mutual, | and Canada in recent years, | had revealed the standard | Tom Sault, for the Royal Sun A trustee of the Catholic National Mutual, Monsignor Nicholas Rothon, financial Alex Bellos BRITAIN'S resurgent jazz scene was given a boost yesterday when one of its musecretary for Southwark diocese, said: "The terms of the policy haven't changed at sicians won the jazz equiva-BBC Scotland said a "well-

top award

lent of the Nobel Prize.

Django Bates, the pianist, bandleader and composer, was awarded the annual £20,000 International Jazzpar Prize in Copenhagen.

Comment and Letters 8;

A peculiar kind of genius Adam Sweeting on the Percy Grainger revival

Music: pages 12/13

Blair sacks Greer supporter

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Director of lobby firm dismissed from Labour's frontbench in Lords

With European weather

Friday October 4 1996

HE cash-for-ques-tions scandal crossed party po-litical lines last night when Tony
Blair dismissed a
front bench spokeswoman in
the Lords, Lady Muriel
the Lords and Muriel
the Lords are night of the light of the lig Turner, after she publicly defended the lobbyist Ian Greer over his role in the affair. ver his role in the affair.

Lady Turner is on the Ian acted in an honourable

Kabul as the

for Islamic

Jonathan Steele in Kabul

hidden from view. Suddenly a passing car braked to a halt

and two men jumped out. From the style of their tur-bans, wrapped round their

heads with one end loose and

hanging almost down to the

waist it was clear they were the Taliban from Kandahar in

Each was brandishing a

stick. They set about beating

the women on the legs. As their arms rose and fell, they

shouted that the women

Austin

Madeleine Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

secret Channel Islands-based

fund used to pay compensa-tion to victims of sexual

abuse by priests.
It said its insurance was

standard employers liability

FEEL WE COULD DO BUSINESS WITH JACK STRAIN.

southern Afghanistan.

HE young woman was

carrying her baby, her

two friends walking beside her. All three were

The Labour leader's action came as John Major and Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, launched a damage limitation exercise in an attempt to head off more embarassment over the scandal - involving Mr Greer and Mr Blair's decision came after Lady Turner told Chan-

the women's ankles between

their shoes and the bottom of

affront Islam as preached by Afghanistan's new rulers, who seem determined to turn the country into the most fun-

damentalist state in the

limped silently away.

their pyjama-style trousers.

Friday Review

and joined the board of lan Greer Associates in 1991. Lady Turner, one of Mr Blair's employment spokes-men, said: "It is always a lottery to enter into litigation. But I still firmly believe in the innocence of Ian Greer.

And I will continue to support him while I believe that." When colleagues were alerted to her remarks, the leader of the Lords, Lord Richard QC, consulted Mr Blair's office and then told inappropriate for her to stay

Mr Major said that he will give evidence to the inquiry

sioner for Standards. The Guardian will supply evidence to the inquiry to prove its case that Mr Hamilton had a covert financial relationship with Mr Greer which involved the ex-minister taking

money for asking parliamentary questions.
Dr Mawhinney yesterday announced a clamp down on donations in the wake of the Guardian's disclosures earlier this week that 21 Torles had received election funding from Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods owner, and from the

letter to 651 local Tory party chairmen, said that the party did not accept donations if they had "strings" attached, if there was reason to believe they included illegally ob-tained money, if they were from foreign governments or from an unknown source.

Hoffman:

a prisoner

of his own

anxieties

Cover story

Mr Major said: "I remain determined to maintain the reputation of Parliament. I have therefore written to Sir Gordon to say that the Government will co-operate fully with his investigation. He will be free to inspect all the DHL private courier company ment provided to the court in boss, Dave Allen, through Mr connection with the libel

said that all material which the Harrods owner is to submit to Sir Gordon's inquiry had been put in front of Mr Major two years ago. Mr Al Fayed then submitted the full details of his cash payments ments in kind from Mr Greer to Mr Hamilton to Sir Geof- worth thousands. frey Johnson-Smith, chairman of the Commons Mem-

bers' Interests Committee. Mr Hamilton had asked for, and received, Harrods gift Greer. vouchers worth thousands of pounds. Mr Cole told ITN: "He was given gift vouchers on more than one occasion. "[They were for] £1,000, £2,000, around Christmas

the Guardian, yesterday chal-lenged Mr Hamilton to release court papers to jour nalists after he denied yester-day's Guardian story that he had received gifts and pay-

The payments in kind were offset against the £10,000 Mr Hamilton has already confessed to have taken from Mr

Mr Hamilton dismissed as a "fabrication" claims that he was given paintings worth almost £1,000 and airline tickets and that his wife Christine bought furniture on an account held by Mr Greer's

But Mr Rusbridger said: We know - and Mr Hamilton knows - that Mr Greer's papers tell the true story of how Mrs Hamilton bought count and how IGA Asso-ciates also paid for paintings worth £1,000 as well as plane

"So the choice for Mr Hamiiton is simple: will be and Mr Greer allow journalists to examine these papers today? If not, then people will draw their own conclusions."

New cloak of fear falls over Taliban cruise code-breakers should never come out in public dressed in such immoral fashion again. A few inches of bare leg were showing above

The woman with the baby staggered and swayed beneath the blows, desperately trying to stay upright. None of the three dared to utter a

sound as the sticks whipped their legs. Then the men got back in the car and drove off. Jumhuriyet bospital is a run-down and depressing place, short of drugs, medi-The incident lasted less than five minutes, but it was suffi-ciently brutal to leave the cine and water. During the civil war when large parts of Kabul came under rocket and artillery fire, the hospital surwomen quaking as they This is kerb-crawling, Kavived almost unscathed, al-

bul-style. It is the sharp end of a reign of intimidation which though its corridors were overcrowded with the wounded and dying. Since the Taliban takeover, has sunk on the capital since the Taliban captured it a week ago. Its name means "seekers" or "students", and the deputy director and 12 male doctors have disapin the short time they have been in power they have closed all the schools, for boys neared Colleagues assume they fied to the north to es-cape the Taliban advance, along with government offi-

bringing some dioceses and

religious orders to to the

verge of bankruptcy.
The Catholic Media Office

in London said the Catholic National Mutual was based in

Guernsey purely as a cost-saving measure. It insisted its cover made no specific refer-

ence to abuse and was similar

to thousands of policies taken

out by schools, hospital trusts

Inquiries in the early 1990s

and local authorities.

and girls, and given orders that women should not work. cials and an estimated 250,000 The incident was recounted to me by Hashmat, (not his Kabulis. No nurses or women doc-tors have come to work. The real name), a young male doctor, as we sat in his room in Taliban has promised the the Jumhuriyet hospital. He women will be paid for three months while new regula-tions are worked out, but no saw the beating on Monday evening as he came into the

Two Afghan women, seen through a car's cracked windscreen in Kabul, are dressed in strict Islamic style according to a new code laid down by the Taliban militia PHOTOGRAPH: SAEED KHAN building. Other Kabulis one knows whether they will report similar punishment ever be allowed back. The beatings. rooms, separate ones for men and women. They are on the same corridors. Will this

have to be changed? Two women were cleaning the floor outside Dr Hashemat's office. One wore a black veil round her head which she clearly had had little practice in adjusting. It flopped down as she talked. A widow with eight children, she said she felt obliged to break the new rules and come to work because she had to feed her family. She earns £4 a month from the health ministry and an extra 58 from the international relief agency. Médecins Sans Frontières, which has a programme to help the hospital. With the

schools closed, all her chil-

dren are at home. The eldest girl, aged 14, is looking after

policy already provided cover for liability claims from vic-tims of abuse, but would only

make pay outs if the diocese was negligent, said Monsignor Kieran Conry.

"It is a standard liability policy which covers the Church for when a tile falls off a proof or the spire falls.

off a roof or the spire falls down. There are no sinister extra bits for additional cover

for abuse and no specific ref-erence to abuse," confirmed

been shut while a new "Is-lamic" curriculum is pre-pared. The university was rector dismissed, for the same

Another male doctor at Jumburiyet, Dr Kabir, said he had watched the Taliban starting up in the refugee camps in Pakistan during the mojahedin war against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Now aged 30, he had done a course in field medi-cine in Peshawar and travelled with the mojahedin in the liberated zones inside

Afghanistan. "People sent their sons to the madrassahs [religious schools] so that they could at least learn something. We never thought they were teaching such extremism," he said ruefully.

Like many other followers of the mojahedin, Dr Kabir

placed Church source" told it

of a specific policy relating to

abuse and that additional pre-

miums were collected by a Bristol-based broker.

The boys' schools have I was distillusioned by their performance after they took power in 1992. The two main factions could not combine. The army led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a fundamentalist. sat on the edge of the city, pouring in artillery and rocket fire for three years until his conditions were met and he became prime minis-

ter in June. The fighting, plus the cor-ruption of President Burhan-uddin Rabbani's government and the former mojahedin field commanders, who awarded themselves several villas and cars apiece, destroyed their support. People half-welcomed the Taliban when it ousted Mr Rabbani last week, hoping that at least peace would be restored. They have already changed

their minds. The two doctors revealed that the director was given a turn to page 2, column 6

musician wins

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Alliance.

Catholics deny secret abuse cases fund British jazz

The Rikki Neave case: Mother accused of murder



... 'sent six-year-old son out after midnight to buy drugs for her

Boy's naked body spreadeagled 'like a black magic sacrifice'

SIX-year-old boy strangled and sprea-deagled naked in the nanner of a Leohave been a black magic sacrifice, a court heard

/esterday. Rikki Neave's body was found in a wood near a Peterborough housing estate 18 hours after he had been reported missing on a Monguilty to his murder.

He had been strangled, ing hold of his anorak to haul him off the floor, and twisting the clothing in a way that turns the collar into a

gip was left in the skin just under the boy's Adam's apple "He must have been held in that position for at least half a minute before he became limp and lifeless," said James Hunt, QC, as he opened the case for the prosecution at the

arranged was no less signifi-cant than the manner of his

The boy's body was sprea woods, several hundred yards from his home on the estate symmetrically in the image of da Vinci's famous drawing, The Vitruvian Man. Even his

thumbs were aligned. Ruth Neave, who had threatened to kill the child in the past and was a drug ad-dict, had a strong interest in

She even gave visiting neighbours readings from tarot cards. Mr Hunt told the

had picked up a book, Magic by Aleister Crowley, she be ame very annoyed. She warned the man that he "didn't know what he was

Mr Hunt said: "The book meaks of sacrifice, of sacrificng animals, and that for the



would kill him if he was not taken into care'

must choose a victim such as a male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence. That is the most satisfactory

A magazine entitled Unex-lained Mysteries of Mind Space and Time was recovered from a suitcase at her council home. On the front was the da Vinci drawing. "We suggest that when you look at that cover and when

the dead boy] there is a link. "Is it far fetched to suggest that from the position in which it was laid out it was

almost as if the body had been offered up as a sacrifice? Is that over the top?"
The short life of Rikki
Neave was a miserable one, the jury heard. He and his stepfather, Dean Neave, hated injected amphetemines, used Rikki to go out and buy the drugs for her, and for her husband when he was there. Sometimes she also took him into Peterborough to shoplift for her. If Rikki

Rikki was scared of the dark but he was regularly sent out after midnight to get

the drugs, sometimes dresse only in a T-shirt. He developed behavioural problems and regularly

Ruth Neave told people she

Ing him off the ground.

Things were so bad that two days before he died, she asked fore the boy's death on their third wedding anniversary. She had described Rikki as a Cambridgeshire social ser-'stumbling block to the vices to take Rikki into care Ruth Neave, who regularly after she told a social worker that she would kill him if

nothing was done. He was not taken into care. On the day he died, November 28, she claimed that he set off for school and that she did

not see him again, said Mr Hunt. But Rikki did not get At spm she called the police

according to officers who came to see her, said Mr Hunt, she appeared uncon-cerned and had not even gone out to look for the boy before

After Rikki's body was

'The book speaks of sacrifice, and that for the highest spiritual working one must choose a victim such as a male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence. That is the most satisfactory victim'

> James Hunt, QC prosecuting

usual fascination with death and murder, went to the mor-

She showed a keen interest in the work of the pathologist who had carried out the post mortem examination.

tuary "four or five times" to stroke and fondle the boy's

"It is plain there were no said Mr Hunt. "It's a matter for you to decide whether this was a wicked woman, who as a calculated act decided to sacrifice her six-year-old son who was out of control to keep her husband and rid herself of a stumbling block. "She went further in her

usual method of violence ... Going to the brink as she had done in the past but, in going further than she had found, Ruth Neave, who was done before, she killed him.' described as having an un-

Channel ferry merger to sink 1,000 jobs | Cloak

Influence of Shuttle brings deal between Stena and P&O

Kelth Harper and Lisa BuckIngham

T LEAST 1,000 ferry workers will become the first victims of yesterday's decision by the cross Channel ferry companies their operations between Dover and Calais.

They bowed to the flerce competition of Le Shuttle the 32-minute rail route through the tunnel — and formed a new company, P & 0 Stena line. Two ferries will disappear at the end of the year, and other savings will follow. At present the companies

employ 5.500 on the route, a figure which will be initially reduced to 4,500, partly through the loss of jobs on the Stena line ship invicts and the P&O ship Pride of

Bruges. Some on-shore redundancies will eventually be announced after further details have been worked out

The consolidation of the ferry business follows the Government decision to lift its ban on links between Channel operators. The ban was imposed before the tun-nel was built. But it has placed unfair competition on ferry companies who have

Review

Michael Billington

Newcastle Theatre Royal

ILL Peter Nichols get away with Blue Mur-der? I rather hope so

since his new play is an odd, quirky double bill that both

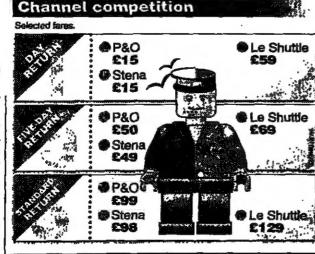
examines 1960s sexual moral-

ity and plays Pirandellian

games with naturalistic theat-

rical conventions. It may be

more successful at the latter



Lord Sterling, P & 0's chairman, said that the merger was for the "benefit of the populace at large."

He declared: "It is a David and Goliath battle, if you like,

but history has shown us that David can win. The enemy is the tunnel. We realised there was no point in fighting each other.

"Someone had to make the move and make sure we could fight in the future." Lord Sterling said that the merger would satisfy demerger would satisfy de-mands of the regulators and politicians for "vigorous com-petition." "The ferry compa-nies were being emasculated and we had the problem of whether we would have enough capital left, let alone money for new ships in 2005." He admitted that there

mances by Nichola McAuliffe.
It is, in fact, two plays in one. The first, Foreign Bodies.

is set in 1963 — the year, of course, that "sexual inter-

course began", according to

Larkin — and subverts all the

conventions of drawing-room comedy. It takes a once arche-

typal Shaftesbury Avenue bourgeois family (all G and Ts

and tennis-playing) and

shows it ready to embrace

murder, perversion, sexual fantasy and eager to grasp a

pneumatic porn-star to its col-

Nichols upends all the conventions of the genre even to

the extent of putting the

play's writer into the cast and

lective bosom.

than the former but it is play's writer into the cast and lewdly funny and boasts a allowing the actors to com-

pair of priceless perfor- ment on the action.

nonsense. But to do nothing meant that there would have been a bleak future. The difference between us and the Channel tunnel is that we are a people operation directed towards the public. The public therefore would have more

In figures to be published today, the Shuttle will claim a 48 per cent share of the passenger car market, against 34 per cent a year ago. Stena and P & 0 dispute the claim, and say their combined operation will bring them more than 40 per cent of cross-Channel

trade. Under the deal, P & 0 Stena line will be 60 per cent owned by P & 0, and will operate 14 ships on the Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe and Dover-Zeebrugge routes. The Swed-He admitted that there | Zeebrugge routes. The Swed | we do not kill off the scope for | would be job losses "and to | ish-owned company, Stena, suggest otherwise would be | will own 40 per cent of the | short term surgery today."

Priceless acting in lewdly funny double bill

play. A Game of Soldiers, which is set in 1967 and shows

Foreign Bodies being submit-

ted, somewhat belatedly, to

the censorious attention of

the Lord Chamberlain in St

Once again Nichols demol-

lshes bourgeois respect-

ability, showing one of the

thearical censor's military

aides to be a frantic pursuer

of passing guardsmen and the

other to be a dirty-minded smut-hound whose working motto is "if in doubt, take it

out". As in the first piece,

Nichols also plays post-mod-

ernist games showing the

characters finally rebelling

Nichols's basic point that

against their author

Which leads to the second | the 1960s was a confused de-



Lord Sterling: 'It is a David and Goliath battle'

ries and one fast craft operating on the Dover-Calais and Newhaven-Dieppe routes. Voting rights in the new com-pany will be held equally, al-though the deal allows for either side to buy the other out by 2002.

Eurotunnel welcomed the merger. "The Channel Tunnel has been coming towards the ferries for 10 years.

"If they chose to grow by increasing their capacity since 1983, then they can hardly blane Eurotune!" Jimmy Knapp, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, said it was bad news. He was concerned about jobs. the withdrawal of two ships and the rationalisation of

cade in which the new-found

sexual freedom confronted

He also sometimes goes for

easy targets by suggesting that middle-class Shropshire

masons are secret transves

tites given to wearing French

maids' uniforms or that the

official guardians of our mo-

rality are lecherous

The real fun lies in his anti-

naturalistic anarchy and

Carry On jokes. Nichola

McAuliffe, in particular, is a

joy as, in the first play, a queenly Shropshire mum

who innocently utters lines like When I hear the word

soldier I always picture pri-

not startlingly original.

Cheap fares could go

GIVEAWAY £1 ferry crossings and winter "booze cruises" could be-come things of the past following yesterday's merger of cross Channel op erators, P&O and Stena, writes Lisa Buckingham.
Although Lord Sterling.

chairman of P & O, said he did not see fare prices ris-ing because of competition from Eurotunnel, analysts predicted that the "Mickey Mouse tickets" traditionally offered to fill empty ferries would disappear.

The merged ferry com-pany, P & O Stena Line, is aiming to cut more than £75 million off combined operating costs which top £280 million a year. Some savings will come from eliminating their most blatantly loss making fares.

Precise figures are unavailable but experts calculate that ultra-cheap tickets probably account for about a tenth of the market.

Mark McVicar, an analyst with stockbroker NatWest, said that al-though cheap deals would almost inevitably be axed, the new operator would not want to raise the cost of standard fares for fear of dampening market growth.

Even after P & O Stena pulls two ferries off the Channel, the route will still suffer severe overcapacity

bender, blithely exits through

non-existent walls and mer-rily watches the lemon from

her drink sail into the front

row of the stalls. Even as the

draggle-stockinged tea-lady in the second play she manages

to make every line tell a dirty

story.

Barry Foster and Anton
Rodgers lend dignified sup-

port as de-trousered figures of

authority. Nichols's own di-

rection is less wild and ubn-buttoned than his writing,

but this idiosyncratic, meta-

theatrical double-bill de-

serves an extended life and

proves the truth of Gilbert

Adair's observation that the

post-modernist always rings

of fear falls on Kabul

continued from page 1 hand-written leaflet from the Taliban this morning, saying that no woman can talk to a man inside the building. A we spoke, the door of the doc tor's office opened, and two turbanned young men with long black beards strode in One carried an AK-47 semiautomatic rifle. They had the grace to smile and shake hands, then started to fire

About 90 per cent of Kabul's population speaks Dari, a variant of Persian. The Tali ban invaders are Pashtun, so linguistic estrangement adds to the feeling in Kabul that it is being occupied again, just as in Soviet times.

My interpreter found him-self interpreting for the Tali-ban, although they assumed he was another doctor. "Have you got any patients here who were soldiers or officials in the Rabbani regime?" they asked. One could guess why they wanted to know. "We don't ask where people come from," said Dr Hashmat. "We are doctors. It is not our

The Taliban repeated the question a number of times before taking an interest in Dr Hashmat's naked chin "Why haven't you got a beard? You had better grow one from now on," they

The Taliban fighters have some vices. The one without the rifle fished in his flowing robes for a packet of cigarettes, then discovered he had no matches. "Anyone got a light?" he asked. The heapital is full of No Smoking signs, but not all the Taliban fight ers, despite their religiou education, can read.

selves for another lapse, and the disappointed Taliban put his cigarettes away. They asked the interpreter if h was a Pashtun, then gave him hearty embrace.

I seized the moment to ask if they had been to Kabul be fore. "No," they said. "Do you like it?" I asked. "Very nice," the older of the two replied "But Islamic rule has not yet been implemented." With that ambiguous comment they left the room and set of

Council defends canal boat trip for disturbed youngster

John Ezard

nal trip to stop a youth charged with assault from absconding was defended by council leaders yesterday. The youth, aged 18, said to be extremely disturbed, is due

to spend another seven days — at a cost of £1,100 a week to Gloucestershire social services department — on a narrowboat which is currently travelling Midlands waterways.

The aim is to prevent him running away before he ap-pears before magistrates next Gloucestershire.

He is one of three youths on the boat, run by the Liverpool firm Care Afloat, with four lults as supervisors. "It is not a holiday", a

Gloucestershire social services spokeswoman said last night. "It is quite high security. People might assume the boy can just jump off on to a towpath and go to pubs but that is not so." The department said: "This youngster is in care because

of family problems. He is too young to be placed in secure accommodation. This is the next best thing. "Some institutions can cost

anything up to £6,000 a week. We view this as a very reasonable sum to be taken out of an annual budget of over £64 million.

"The use of a boat is particularly appropriate when there is a danger of the young person absconding and when they have to be subject to firm control, but the authority does not have the powers to

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Wisława Szymborska receiving a Polish Pen Club award

THE 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to the Polish poet Wislawa poets in a row." Szymborska, a 73-year-old former Solidarity activist based in Krakow, writes Adam Czerniawsi.

Her work is little known in western Europe but her elevation to Nobel laureate is sure to change that, and a battle for rights to her poems began as soon as the news reached the publishers gathered for the annual Frankfurt Book Fair.

In its citation, the Swedish Academy compared her poetry to the music of Mozart, but added that "she also has something of the fury of Beethoven".

Szymborska was prominent in the Solidarity movement in its early days, and former president Lech Walesa was yesterday quick to laud her as a woman "great of heart and pen".

Jonathan Galassi, president of the Academy of American Poets, said: "This is wonderful news. She is the greatest living author in Poland. It is fabulous. With Seamus Heaney winning last year

An unlikely

alliance of Krakow and Essex yesterday

helped

win the

Prize for

Literature

Nobel

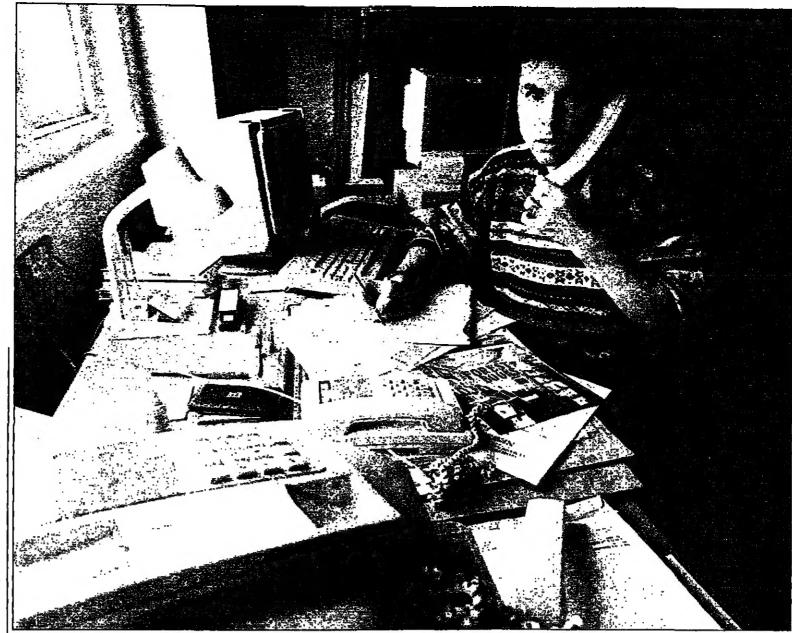
old writer

a 73 year

Szymborska herself, though delighted by the award, was rather less effusive. This is a difficult situation," she said. 'I am normally a very private person and now I foresee some difficult moments.

She is a literary star in Poland — but a famously modest one. She often escapes from her Krakow flat to the Tatra mountains and is never seen at poetry festivals. Large editions of her slim volumes quickly sell out in her native country, and she also has a following in Germany

Szymborska was first published in Poland in 1957, the year after censorship had lost its stranglehold. She has produced a handful of what the academy called "slim but powerful" collections of poems. After an early flirtation with the communist system, her relationship with the government became difficult as her poems became more personal and



William Walker holds the fort during an historic day at the offices of Forest Books, Szymborska's British publisher

Down in the forest something stirred

The terrorist, he watches

The bomb will explode in the bar at twenty past one. Now it's only sixteen minutes past. Some will still have time to enter

The terrorist's already on the other side. That distance protects him from all harm and, well, it's like the pictures:

A woman in a yellow jacket, she enters. A man in dark glasses, he leaves. Boys in leans, they're talking. Sixteen minutes past and four seconds. The smaller one, he's lucky, mounts his accoter. but that feller chap he walks in:

Seventeen minutes and forty seconds. A giri, she walks by, a green ribbon in her hair. But that bus suddenly hides her. Eighteen minutes past. The girl's disappeared.

Was she stupid enough to go in, or wasn't she. We shall see when they bring out the bodies. Nineteen minutes paat. No one else appears to be going in. On the other hand, a fat baid man leaves.

But seems to search his pockets and at ten seconds to twenty past one he returns to look for his wretched gloves.

it's twenty past one. Time, how it drags. Surely, it's now. No, not quite. Yes, now. The bomb, it explodes.

T WAS supposed to be a quiet Thursday in the office at Forest Books, a tiny publishing house based opposite the golf course in Chingford, east

Then the foreign editor of the Times rang, then the Guardian; and the Independent; and Kaleidoscope. Would you have a copy of People On A Bridge by Wislawa Szymborska? The name of the translator? Look, any information, basically.

Press agencies were report-

ing that Szymborska, a 73year-old poet based in Kra-kow, had won the Nobel Prize for Literature, and the British press — not usually noted for its interest in Polish poetry was beating a path to the door of Forest, her sole UK pub-lisher. While the literary world celebrated Szymbors ka's surprise success at the Frankfurt Book Fair, Ching-

ford too was quietly agog. Forest published Szymbor-ska's slim volume in 1990 — it was printed in Poland with Arts Council backing — and sales have, not surprisingly, been slow. Yesterday an American company bought

1,000 — the entire print run and orders were taken from across Europe, with interest especially strong Scandinavia.

It was Forest founder Brenda Walker's greatest moment, but unfortunately she was not there to enjoy it. She was in Bucharest on the lookout for other writers for her predominantly eastern European list, leaving her son and a secretary to deal with the biggest thing to hit Chingford since Norman Tebbit.

Walker, 62, a former head-teacher who has financed her publishing by spells of supply teaching, had no inkling that Szymborska was in the running for the £700,000 prize. Seamus Heaney won it last year and it was not expected that another poet would win.

"I didn't even know she had been nominated." said Walker. "I started Forest Books as a hobby in the spring of 1984, and it has never made any money. The recession hit us badly and these days I can hardly publish any new work. I concen trate on selling the backlist. I even wanted to sell Forest at one point, but no one wanted

to buy it."
Walker's list, which aims to promote "ethnic groups whose literatures are not well

Soars: An Anthology of Modern Albanian Poetry, a collec-tion of Slovenian short

stories, and an anthology of Sorbian (yes Sorbian) poetry. The 110-strong list is a labour of love. Turnover was only £60,000 a year at its pre-recession peak and is now a good deal lower, but having a nobel laureate on the list makes it all worthwhile. "It will put Forest on the map,'

said Walker. Meanwhile in Frankfurt, grander publishing enter-prise, had moved swiftly to add Szymborska to their list.

known", could not be said to Poems and is in negotiation pander to populism. Titles for the back list. Joanna include An Elusive Eagle Mackle, a director of Faber, said: "It may sound unlikely, but she is somebody we have been chasing for some time."

It seems that poets, like footballers, tend to move up a division when they achieve fame, and henceforth Szym borska will be published in Bloomsbury, rather than Chingford. Walker accepts that: "There are no hard feelings. I've been cutting back on new titles anyway, But I still hope to sell lots of this book and we'll be reprinting as soon as I get back."

People on a Bridge is available from Forest Books, 20 Forest Within hours of the an-nouncement, it had acquired the rights to her Selected Poems at the and of October



In illustrious company

Winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature since 1980 1996 Wislawa Szymborska (Poland)

1995 Seamus Heaney (Ireland) 1994 Kenzaburo Oe (Japan)

1993 Toni Marrison (United Sixtes) 1992 Derek Walcott (Trinidad) 1991 Nadine Gordimer (S Africa)

1990 Octavio Paz (Mexico) 1989 Camilo Jose Cela (Spain) 1988 Naguib Mehiouz (Egypi) 1987 Joseph Brodsky (United States

1986 Wole Soyınka (Nigeria) 1985 Claude Simon (France) 1984 Jaroslav Seilert (Czech)

1983 William Golding (Britain) 1981 Elias Canetti (Britain) 1980 Częsiaw Milosz (United States

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The unlikely 'disaster' Greer Associates in 1991 and

BARONESS TURNER

Lawrence Donegan

ARONESS Muriel Turner was a most un-likely candidate for the role of New Labour's biggest embarrassment in the last conference before the election. Solid, safe, austere, pomp-

ous; views of the former front-bench peer differ widely but no-one who has come across her in the last 25 years would have singled her out as potentially a figure of controversy Her career in Labour Party politics, until yesterday, has indeed been remarkable only for its colourlessness.

The 69-year-old baroness, who whose husband, Reginald, a former wing-com-mander, died in 1995, first made her mark in the early 1970s as assistant general sec-retary of the white collar union, ASTMS where, working closely with the union's flamboyant leader, Clive Jen-kins, she helped it become one of the most powerful

members of the TUC. She became a member of the TUC's general council in 1980 and joined the Equal Opportunities Commission two years later.



Lady Turner . . . solid, safe, austere and pompous

Her politics at that time were left-wing, but as the Labour Party changed under Neil Kinnock she move into the political mainstream. The former Labour leader

made her a life peer in 1985 and appointed her to the front bench two years later as a spokeswoman on social security and employment — a role she has filled assiduously for the last nine years. Earlier this year, she spon-sored a bill in the Lords

aimed at outlawing discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace. She joined the board of lan

insisted last night there was never any conflict of interest with her role in the Lords. She defended Mr Greer's payment of £10,000 to Mr

Hamilton in language using the collective noun we — which emphasised the continuing strength of her association with the lobbiest. We believe we have acted completely in accordance

with the law and completely in accordance with the ethics of our professional association. We didn't pay MPs to sk questions in the House." She has never hidden here ssociation with Mr. Green

and has been tenacious in her

support of him over the years she waived her salary during the lobby company's legal battle with the Guardian. In July 1994, she wrote to Labour MPs asking them to withdraw their support for a parliamentary motion criti-cising Mr Greer following

reports about his company's dealings in the Guardian. This prompted outrage among colleagues in the Commons, including several frontbenchers, who complained she had used Lords notepaper to lobby them on behalf of Mr Greer — a breach of parlia-

mentary rules. No doubt her colleagues are even angrier after yesterday's

Duchess drops fight to ban revealing book

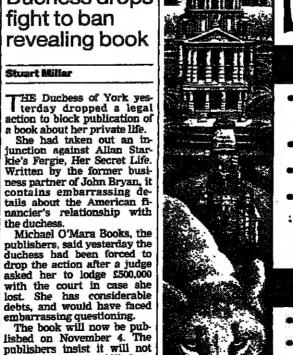
THE Duchess of York yesterday dropped a legal action to block publication of a book about her private life. She had taken out an in-junction against Allan Starkie's Fergie, Her Secret Life. Written by the former business partner of John Bryan, it contains embarrassing de-tails about the American fi-

nancier's relationship with the duchess Michael O'Mara Books, the publishers, said yesterday the duchess had been forced to drop the action after a judge asked her to lodge £500,000 with the court in case she lost. She has considerable debts, and would have faced embarrassing questioning. The book will now be published on November 4. The

contain new material likely to embarrass other royals. The duchess flew to New York yesterday to attend a Disney video launch and collect a cheque for her US char-

ity, Chances for Children.

Newspapers have carried extracts from another controversial book, Duchess of York Uncensored, by Madame Vassi Kortesis, a Greek-born



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Friday Review page

News in brief

Gun club official hid weapons in school

A GUN club safety officer was arrested by police yesterday after the discovery of live ammunition in a school where he has worked as caretaker for 10 years. Detectives in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, are questioning Paul Fell, aged 35, who supervises safety at the nearby Bury gun club, after the find at Norden community school in Rochdale.

Gunpowder, imitation pistois and hand grenades were found in a locked storage cupboard at the school by a teacher who had borrowed a key from a relief caretaker to find some school equipment. Police also confiscated live ammunition, six hand-guns, two rifles and three shotguns from the home of the mother of Mr Fell, whose two gun licences covering the 11 weapons have been revoked.

Mr Fell said he had made "a stupid mistake" in storing weaponry in the secure school cupboard while he moved house from his mother's home. Det Chief Insp Steven Lee, of Greater Manchester police, said: "We are treating this very seriously—after events such as the Dunblane tragedy, the issue of guns and schools is very serious."—*Martin Wainwright*

Altwood 'recovering well'

MANDY Allwood was last night said to be making a good recovery despite being distraught after miscarrying her eight babies. The 32-year-old divorces from Solikull, West Midlands, is badies. The ac-year-old divorces from sommun, west miniams, is recovering at King's College hospital, London. The hospital chaplain visited her on Wednesday night and blessed by name the babies in the presence of their father Paul Hudson, aged 37.

Doctors warned Miss Allwood from the start that her chances of successfully bringing to term all eight babies — conceived after a successfully bringing to term all eight babies—conceived after a successfully bringing to term all eight babies—conceived after a successfully decreased.

course of fertility drugs — were minimal. But she defled advice to have a selective termination.

'No risk' from HIV surgeon

A HOSPITAL last night sought to reassure more than 300 ear, nose and throat patients after revealing that a surgeon who operated on them was tested HIV positive. Officials at Whiston Hospital on Merseyside insisted there was "virtually no risk whatsoever" to the patients treated by the doctor, who has not been named. The doctor revealed to his colleagues on Tuesday that he had tested positive for the virus. He was said to be "naturally distressed" and off on sick leave.

Turk lover wants to visit son

THE Turkish lover of the 14-year-old child bride Sarah Cook, who gave birth to his baby son two days ago, has appealed to the British authorities to grant him a visa so that he can visit the child, it was disclosed yesterday.

Talking to journalists after he appeared in a Turkish court on a

charge of statutory rape, Musanin Komeagac, aged 18, said be was desperate to see his son and to bring him gifts given by people to his family in his home village where the couple lived together after going through a traditional betrothal caremony. The case against him was adjourned until November 21.—Alan Watkins

Chemical explosion inquiry

FIEALITH and safety experts were last night investigating the cause of an explosion that ripped through a chemicals plant near Bristol, sending a plume of toxic black smoke across towns and villages along the Severn estuary. Both motorway crossings of the estuary were closed for part of the day, sending motorists on diversions of up to 50 miles.

Awon Fire Service said the explosion at the Albright and Wilson works in Avonmouth was heard in Bristol, eight miles away. Six firefighters were taken to Bristol royal infirmary after suffering breathing difficulties. Police sources said early signs were that the explosion was not caused deliberately. — Geoffrey Glabs

Depressed missing out

MISPLACED fears that anti-depressant drugs are addictive and worries that doctors will be unsympathetic mean many people ar not seeking help for depression, a survey published today says. The survey of 2,003 people, published in the British Medical Journal, found that 78 per cent believed, wrongly, that anti-depressants were addictive. Half the people in the survey thought a GP would be unsympathetic. — Carls Mihill

Bob and Paula in custody fight

BOB Geldof and Paula Yates went to the High Court yesterday as the legal battle for custody of their three children got underway. Mr Geldof applied for custody of the children following allegations that drugs were found in Ms Yates's London home while she was in Australia with her new partner, Michael Hutchence of rock group INXS. — Lawrence Donegan

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Revelations strike at heart of sacred trust and payouts to victims place heavy burden on dioceses

Abuse cases stun Catholics

Madeleine Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

so shocked the worldwide Catholic Church in the last decade as much as the emergence of a substantial number of cases of child sex abuse by priests. The issue strikes at the heart of the trust, once held sacred,

between priest and laity.
As the church has grappled with the unfamiliar issues of instituting guidelines of good practice and learning to liaise with statutory authorities, it has been hit by a wave of compensation claims resulting in huge payouts in Amer-ica, Canada and Australia.

The Chicago diocese has spent about £5 million since 1991 on compensation for clergy abusing children, and has to sell off property to reduce a deficit running into millions of dollars. In New Mexico, the diocese had to Mexico, the diocese had to mount a special appeal to avoid bankruptcy after set-tling 120 claims. Only this August, the Catholic Christian Brothers in Australia paid out about £2 million to 210 victims of physical and sexual abuse after selling property in Sydney to settle the action.

Closer to home, there were two settlements in Ireland last year, one of £50,000 and one of £30,000 paid to victims of priests in Dublin diocese. The Irish church is bracing itself for more claims. But the Catholic church in

the UK said last night they know of no compensation claims which have been made or are pending here. Nor is it clear, even in a case of crimi-nal conviction of a priest, that the Catholic church itself would be liable. Compensation has to be

claimed from the perpetrator becomes lighle for damages when it is proved in court that it was negligent. For example, the claimant would have to prove that the church ignored complaints, or moved the priest to another parish to avoid scandal.

The purpose of the employers' liablity insurance policy who were now vulnerable to offered by the Catholic false and inaccurate National Mutual — the sub-

ject of BBC Scotland's allegations — is to cover legal costs in fighting a liability action and, only if the church was proved negligent, paying out

compensation. In a bid to avoid the kind of scandals and bills which have dogged dioceses around the world, the Catholic church in England and Wales has acted promptly, publishing tight guidelines in 1994. Under these, any allegation of abuse must be reported to the statu-tory authorities — social services or the police - within two days and the priest involved must be suspended immediately while an investiga-tion is carried out. The Catholic church in Scotland followed suit with its own guidelines last month.

Although senior churchmen insist that the guidelines were in response to the devastating pain of abuse victims, they were also clearly provoked by the increasing possi-

'In the UK the Catholic church is taking no risks these days'

bility of litigation. "It would be fantastically difficult to prove negligence after the implementation of the guidelines," admitted Nicholas Coote, assistant secretary to the Conference of Bishops in England and Wales and one of the working party who drew up the guidelines.

In the UK, the church is taking no risks these days. A year ago an allegation was made against Father Michael Hollings, one of the most respected priests in London. He was immediately suspended while the church undertook an investigation which took several months even though the police quickly dropped the case for lack of evidence. Father Hollings was eventually cleared and reinstated, sparking criti-cism that the pendulum had swung too far against priests



Father Ivan Payne, a Dublin priest, who paid £27,500 compensation in 1993 to a man who claimed he was sexually assaulted by him while serving as an altar boy at a holiday camp. The money was borrowed from diocese funds

Teenager assaulted after plea for refuge

Case study

Maggie O'Kane

CHRIS, a 24-year-old Glasgow man who says he was sexually abused by a priest when he was 17. plans to force the church to pay him compensation in

to the priest after he was sexually abused at home. He was invited to come to live in a "house of prayer" in Northern Ireland where the abuse went on for three

"The abuse happened in the prayer room. We went in there alone, he opened the scriptures at random and then prayed to a relic of the Blessed Charles. Then he'd wish me the Peace of Christ and it would all start. "I put up with it then, I

suppose, because I had been abused at home and even though he was violating me in front of the altar it wasn't as bed as what had gone on at home.

"I only went crazy when I found out he was doing the same thing to my best

Then I found out that there were about eight of us that he was violating. After that he said it would be a good idea if I went back to Scotland. He was afraid I would blow the whistle on him and I did." Chris went to a priest in

his home parish of Glasgow and was told that his abuser would be dealt with "Nothing happened to him. He went on to be a per-ish priest in Ireland. "I'm not interested in the

"I just want someone in authority in the Church saying we're sorry for violating you in front of the

Tories 'poised to lurch to the right'

Survey shows most prospective satisfy the and supporters of death penalty

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

HE Conservative Party
is set to lurch to the right
after the general election, according to a survey of prospective candidates pub-

They are much more Euro-sceptical than the MPs they hope to replace, with none in favour of a single currency. Divisions over Europe will be a dominant theme at the party conference, which opens in Bournemouth on Tuesday.

The survey suggests that John Redwood's popularity is growing on the right, and that he is emerging as the favourite to replace John Major if

ship contest. Until now, the expectation the right would outnumber the left 2-1 among the new intake. But the survey indicates this is a huge underestimation of the growing strength

of the right.
It further dents the already battered leadership chances of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the chances those who harbour hopes of emerging as compromise candidates, Ian Lang and Stephen Dorrell. The battle, if the Conservatives are defeated, is shaping up as predominantly a rightwing affair between Mr Redwood, Michael Portillo

The Economist contacted

swing to Labour. Forty-six returned usable answers. The sitting MPs were then asked the same questions, with 40 per cent replying.

On Europe, they were asked to rank themselves on a scale of one to five, one being the most pro-European and five the most anti-European. The score averaged out as strongly sceptical, 4.1. Among the retiring MPs the average

Another indicator is the death penalty, on which the retiring MPs were divided but were three to one in favour. Most were coy about discussing a leadership contest, but eight mentioned Mr Redwood and several others Mr Howard and Mr Portillo. No one mentioned Mr Clarke.

with 16 per cent for Michael Heseltine, 13 per cent for Bar-oness Thatcher, 9 per cent for Mr Redwood, and 7 per cent for both Mr Clarke and Mr

Mr Lang received 1 per cent and Mr Dorrell less than 0.5 per cent.

Conservative Central Office last night played down the survey of prospective candi-dates: "People should be careful about reading too much into small samples of a few candidates.

"The Conservative Party will remain a party of the centre right."
But Brian Wilson, who is

on Labour's campaign team, said: "This survey shows how the moderates have been routed and the Tory party dragged to the rightwing In a MORI poll, also in the fringes."

Theologian in heresy inquiry may resign from 'Wee Frees'

Erland Clouston

NE of Britain's leading theologians may walk out on his church after it cleared his opponents of an ultra-Calvinist conspiracy and instead accused him of heresy.

The Free Church of Scotland yesterday announced its training of the ministry committee would investigate "statements and comments" by Donaid Macleod, acquitted on five charges of indecent assault earlier this year. The decision followed an in-

quiry by a church committee into the events surrounding the trial, at which the judge ruled that Professor Macleod had in fact been framed by Protestant zealots - several of them Free Church office-

Prof Macleod, the 55-yearold head of systematic theology at Edinburgh's Free Church College, now faces scrutiny by many of the men

compared to Jesuits in their fanaticism by Sheriff John Horsburgh.

"I am quite stunned; this puts me back in the dock," said Prof Macleod. "There are plenty of steeples in Scotland as it is ... but if I find that folk need leadership, I would then feel bound to do all I could to give them that lead-ership," be said.
The compromise motion

adopted by the Free Church's Commission of Assembly reflected the divided views on Prof Macleod in a movement where church attendance has shrunk by 13 per cent to 12,000 since 1990.

While repudiating the conspiracy theory and querying Prof Macieod's beliefs, the 72member commission ordered a separate inquiry into the behaviour of three members of the training of the ministry committee, on the grounds that "they may have jost the confidence of many in the

Victim of the IRA cause buried in Irish village

David Sharrock on Maybew before the ending of the IRA ceasefire last year, a dignified tribute

IARMUID O'Neill, the IRA suspect shot dead anti-terrorist police in west London 11 days ago, was buried yesterday accord-ing to his family's wishes in a quiet, dignified ceremony on a hillside overlooking

Courtmacsherry Bay.
O'Neill's parents, Eoghan and Theresa, had appealed for no paramilitary trappings, and individuals among the strong Sinn Fein presence stressed they were there in a stressed they were there in a new joint investigation by private capacity. The Irish British and Spanish police, police, however, took no arrived at the church arm in chances, with sniffer dogs, trained to detect explosives, used to search the graveyard and parish church at Timoleague, the quaint seaside village which the O'Neills had adopted as a refuge from their

Around 100 uniformed and plain clothes Gardai sealed off the village from midday and Special Branch men watched the faces among the Sean McManus, a member

of Sinn Fein's ruling execu-

London lives.

was the most senior republi-Mr McManus's son, Joseph,

vas shot dead during a failed IRA attempt to murder a parttime soldier in Northern Paddy Ryan, the former Catholic priest who the Brit-

ish authorities have twice failed to extradite from Ireland to face terrorism charges, was also present. Diarmuid O'Neill's Spanish girlfriend, Karmele Breño,

vhose relationship with the IRA suspect has prompted a arm with his mother.

Her floral wreath, wrapped in a ribbon of the Irish tricolour, bore the message: "I'll always love you. Gero Arte Kari," a Basque phrase which means "see you later". Father James Coombes ac-

knowledged her presence at the funeral mass by name before praising her boyfriend's family. "There hasn't been a word of self-pity, a word of bitterness, a word of recrimination. This is a very difficult occasion, there is a great deal tive who took part in talks at of mystery in what is happen Stormont with Sir Patrick ing in our country."

han, and younger brother, a nurse at a London hospital. said: "May God give us the serenity to accept those things that cannot be changed, the courage to change the things that can be changed, and the wisdom to

know the difference."
Shane, aged 23, his closely cropped red hair reminding family and friends of his dead brother, said: "You shared your life with us, God give eternal life to you." The strongly English accents grated on the ears of the softly-spoken Cork folk.

It was a short walk to the graveyard. Shane shoulderng the coffin to its final resting place.

Karmele stepped forward with a single red rose, kissed its petals and tossed it in to the gaping hole before breaking down and burying her head in the shoulder of a family member.

O'Neill's family in An Phob-lacht, the Irish republican weekly newspaper, includes the statement. Deep sympa-thy from all POWs, Whitemoor" - the Cambridgeshire prison where a number of IRA terrorists are held.

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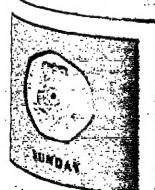
Theresa and Eoghan O'Neill, with daughter Siobhan, left, and Karmele Ereño, with rose. at the funeral of Diarmuid yesterday





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See how I costs to see family's fi



THE RELEASE WELL

for drug

HE courts will be able

to order mandatory

drug testing and treatment programmes for

who commit serious drug-related crimes under

new proposals unveiled by Jack Straw, the shadow home

secretary yesterday.
This new pledge to "halt the vicious circle of addiction and

crime" came as Labour staged its first full law and order debate.

While delegates appeared pleased with Mr Straw's

claim that theirs was now the

party of law and order, their

response to calls from the floor for tougher sentencing

was still not as enthusiastic

as at the Tory party confer-

'Heroin addicts

steal more than

£1bn worth of

property a year

ence. Mr Straw also detailed

his party's pledge to intro-duce a ban on ownership and

possession of handguns, but it

emerged that single shot

sporting pistols below 0.22 calibre may yet be exempted.

Labour's new proposal for a

drug testing and treatment order is based on similar

schemes run in California,

and is designed as an alterna-tive to prison. All offenders

convicted of drug dealing,

drug possession, burglary or theft — and assessed by the

court through a pre-sentence report — would also face a new regime of drug testing for heroin, other opiates and

Those identified as addicted

to hard drugs would then face a possibe treatment order as

part of their probation sen-

tence. For the first month they would face a random

drug test at least twice a week, and if they were not clean by the end of the period

would face mandatory treat-

ment. Probation officers

would have to be given a new

power to administer £5 a time

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

criminals

selves that suffer. The public

does as well, with heroin ad-

time to call a halt to this vi-

cious circle of addiction and

He added that too often her-

oin addicts were in court for

The shadow home secretary

believes that the savings in

costs to the criminal justice

system in dealing with repeat drug offenders would more

than cover the resources in-

volved in the large scale ex-

pansion in drug treatment

The idea was cautiously welcomed by the police and by penal reformers yesterday. Paul Cavadino, the chair of

the Penal Affairs Consortium,

which represents 31 organisations in the criminal justice

system, gave the proposal a qualified welcome, saying it made sense to identify and

deal with more drug offenders

by intensive treatment in the

detail of how the proposed

testing arrangements would

work but agreed that the cost of drug treatment pro-

grammes would be more than

recouped by a reduction in

drug-related crime.
Mr Straw also detailed the

party's pledge on gun control, saying it would cover bans on

both the private ownership

and possession of all hand

Labour's gun control policy also includes an end to mail order sales, a ban on anyone

under 18 holding any kind of

gun, even airguns, and a

See how little it

costs to secure your

family's future.

remain legal.

He said he wanted to see the

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Straw sets

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A Labour delegate listening to Ann Pearston's plea on behalf of the victims of Dunblane Don't weaken guns ban pledge, pleads Dunblane petition organiser

guns the prohibition is in line with the party's evidence to Alan Travis the Cullen inquiry into the ANN Pearston, organiser of the 750,000-signature Dunblane Snowdrop Dunblane massacre and leaves open whether single-shot target shooting pistols under 0.22 calibre, which are kept at shooting clubs, should Dunblane petition, yesterday made a moving plea to Labour not to stop short of a compre-The conference heard a hensive ban on handguns. moving appeal by the organisers of the Dunblane Snow-Her speech was followed by the conference standing in drop Petition urging Labour silence in memory of the 16 to ban these guns as well. Mr Straw made clear that

victims of Thomas Hamilton

at Dunblane primary school.

speaking to you is because the pistol that Thomas Ra-

militon used on his victims

after Hungerford despite | measure to prevent another the fact that nine of Ryan's | Dunblane. "But I'm afraid I victims were killed with a can't." Any legislation that legally held pistol. Why not? Because the gun lobby fought tooth and nail to preserve the long-established sport of target shoot-ing. This sport allows people like Hamilton easy

access to guns."
She said those who survived Dunblane include a child who lost the sight of one eye, a child now in a "The only reason I am wheelchair, and a child and a gym teacher each with a hand that no longer works. She wanted to believe the

shooting organisations'

fell short of a ban on handguns would mean "we and our children are expendable so that target shooters can retain their right to pursue a sport that uses weapons

signed to kill." A Conservative Central Office spokeswoman reacted furiously after Labour officials challenged them to give Mrs Pearston a hearing at their conference in Bournemouth next week. She said there would be no invitation because the party did not want to face charges

John Duncan

2008 Olympics.

ACK CUNNINGHAM, the

secretary, yesterday committed Labour to the cam-

paign to bring the world's two

greatest sporting events to

forceful and practical support

for attempts to attract the 2006 soccer World Cup and

"The Football Association

have the emphatic backing and support of the Labour Party in their bid for the 2006 World Cup," Mr Cunningham told a fringe meeting, which the Manchester United man-

ager, Alex Ferguson, also

addressed. "They will have the full support of a new Labour

government if we are elected.

We believe that we should be

shadow national heritage

Cunningham backs drive for

he said.

World Cup and Olympics



events and that's why we will also be backing the hosting of the Olympics." Government and lottery money could be used to beef up the campaigns,

The British Olympic

Association has decided not

to bid for the 2004 Olympics,

but is almost certain to put

London forward for the 2008 games. FA representatives have started gathering pre-liminary information in the United States to assist their

World Cup bid. Decisions by

Fifa and the IOC on both will be taken within the lifetime of

"Priority one for us is a World Cup bid, the logical

next step from Euro 96," said David Davies, the FA's head of communications. "Make no

mistake, our reputation for

staging events has soared

since the summer. The time is

the next government.

the Tories had been out-Clanked by Labour.

Party pitches for top-sport events

and other places."

the past.

many years, greatly hinder-ing Manchester and Birming-

ham in their Olympic bids in

While John Major has at-

tempted to redress that bal-

ance - for example commit-

ting millions of pounds to the

directing £180 million of lot-

Sketch

Cheer leaders put clapometer in spin



 IRST an apology. Yester-day I may inadvertently have given the impres sion that the speech by Har-riet Harman received almost as warm a reception from the delegates to the Labour Pary's conference as the remarks made earlier by Bar-

I am privately informed by a Labour spin doctor that that was not the case. In fact, Miss Harman's applause was led by the so-called "strategic clappers", who are placed round the hall by the party's apparatchiks to clap and er any speaker who needs a little help.

They can be spotted by the way they stretch their arms as wide as possible, in the about his fish, then slamming them together to create a sound similar to the battle of Monte Cassino. The spin doctor assured me

that far fewer of the real dele gates were cheering Ms Harman's speech. I should like to express sincere regret for my mistake and any distress it I did not notice any strategic clapping for Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary,

and that party is the Labour Some old Labour lags may have been startled by that assertion, and by the fact that Mr Straw also quoted David Mellor with approval. Mr Mellor had said that in crime

who declared: "There is only one party of law and order

In fact, with his expensive tastes, laddish enthusiasm for football and vague unspecific policies, there is something very New Labour about Mr Mellor. Would it not be wonderful if he decided to cross the floor like Alan Howarth? Labour's party managers would mount a massive public relations operation — to

bad at all. He is one of the few | play solitaire?"

members of the shadow cabi-net who gives the impression that he believes poor people, who suffer much more from crime than most of us, might be worth support and protection. Earlier, Clare Short spoke

in the debate on foreign af-fairs — or "leadership in the world" as it is called, since under New Labour debates do

not have titles but slogans. It was her job to speak against unilateral nuclear disarmament (or "using our weapons to get rid of more weapons" in the mystifying slogan adopted to replace the motto "fight, fight and fight again").

Being a lefty herself, Ms Short is often put up to

dampen the left's expecta-tions. She did it again yesterday, with obvious sincerity but without much passion.

I was reminded of the film The Manchurian Candidate, in which American officials are brainwashed into spying for the communists. A certain phrase is spoken to them - if

phrase is spoken to them — if memory serves, it was "Do you play solitaire?" — and they immediately go into an obedient trance.

At times, the whole conference seems to be in an obedient trance. ent trance. It all got too much for one man in a Hawaitan shirt, who leapt to the rostrum to say that not one of the constituency delegates that had been called was in favour of unilateral nuclear

disarmament. Robin Cook, the chairman, assured him, somewhat im-probably, that it had been an accident. But it left open the more important question: how had the man got on stage in the first place? And near the start of the live television transmission?

It brought to mind another film scene — the end of every James Bond film in which he gets into the villain's secret lair disguised as a technician. then sabotages the H-bomb or whatever. The party's brass must have felt like Gold-finger, screaming: "It's Bond! Seize him and bring him to

As it happens, I shared a taxi to the conference hall with Clare Short yesterday morning. She was as bouncy and bubbly as ever. Once inside the building we went our separate ways, I to the press room, she to behind the platform, where Peter Mandelson keep it secret.

Ar Straw's speech was not mured: "Ah, Clare! Do you



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> vided a rallying point for the left on which to inflict embarrassing defeats on party David Clark, the shadow de-

disarmers heralds new era, says Clark on defence should now be | policy had lost it electoral gone for ever. I hope that the arguments over Trident have become a relic of the past". The vote followed an appeal

efforts to get a worldwide nuvoted to retain the Triclear arms ban were more The Labour leadership likely to succeed through active participation in talks than through a "one-off uni-lateral gesture". Labour's policy involved claimed victory after dele-gates rejected a motion calling for Trident to be scrapped by 56.35 per cent to 43.65 per cent in a card vote. In the past "using our weapons to get rid of more weapons. This must

> survive a nuclear war. We would all be destroyed." He was backed by Dave

strong defence for Britain. tary David Clark warned dele-The party's oldest divisions gates that Labour's defence dren," she said.

support at the last election.

"British people won't elect
a government that they do not

"Today our defence policy is comprehensive, credible and it has the support of the people of Britain."

Later CND welcomed Labour's renewed commit-

Trident issue and challenged a new Labour government to recall Trident to ports and pledge it would not be replaced. Ms Short, who took over

as an MP at the election. mous contribution to the party in all areas of our work but especially in her longcivilisation". standing and dedicated inter-But shadow defence secre- national work, and her work standing and dedicated inter-

taking the first steps on what football in particular," said may be a long and difficult. Tom Pendry, the shadow mintask to bring the biggest event of all to England again. If we The Labour Party Charter do not bring this World Cup for Football commits Labour

in 2006, it won't be here for another 20 years on top of that. The World Cup no to setting up a task force made up of people within the game aimed as drawing up longer alternates back and forth over the Atlantic — we the necessary changes. "When it comes to sport." are talking about Africa, Asia said Mr Cunningham, Labour Party is a Premier League outfit while the Tories Tepid government backing for bringing large sports events under Margaret Thatcher set Britain back still languish in the Vauxhall

Conference. Mr Cunningham also derided the Government's commitment to grassroots sport. "Mr Major claims to be committed to raising the standard of sports in schools but his government's record is abysmal in that regard," he said. clearing of land for a new Manchester stadium on top of school playing fields have been sold off, and 2,000 are

under threat. The number of

PE teachers has halved with

tery money to a new national stadium — Mr Cunningham less than 25 per cent of chilsaid Labour was taking the dren doing more than two lead on sport. "We are the hours of PE a week.

ent policy for sport and for Picture, page 16 hosting major world sporting right for us. We are already Second Trident vote victory over nuclear

Political Correspondent ABOUR vesterday laid to rest the ghost of leftwing dissent over nuclear arms when for the first time a majority of constituency activ

dent nuclear missile.

the party was always saved by the union block vote but this year its policy was en-dorsed by both sections of the prevailed on an issue which for many years before pro-

the history of our party. "Today's Labour Party is united in its commitment to

trust with the defence of our for unity by Clare Short, the country," he said. shadow overseas develop-ment minister and an NEC member. She told delegates

be a better way to use our influence". But Chris Purriell, from Orpington, moving the motion It was the second year run-ning that the leadership's will long as nuclear weapons to scrap Trident, warned: "As remain on this earth, there is a danger of nuclear war. Don't be put under the illusion that humanity would

fence secretary, said the Brown, from Huntingdon, result "heralds a new era in who described nuclear weapons as a "affront to

ment to pursuing an international agreement on total nuclear disarmament.
But it strongly criticised the leadership for ducking the

the overseas development portfolio in the July reshuffle, also paid a warm tribute to her predecessor, the muchloved leftwing veteran Joan Lestor, who is stepping down "She has made an enorServices ban on gays opposed

ABOUR yesterday sig-

nalled overwhelming oppo-sition to the ban on gays in the armed forces. A motion calling for equal rights for homosexuals in the services was carried unanimously, on a show of hands. It also called for new laws to make it a criminal offence to print, publish or distribute material denving the exis-

Alan Dobbie, from Hornsey

and Wood Green, proposing the motion, told the confer-

ence that many gay men and lesbians had fought and died

tence of the Holocaust.

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Chancellor Helmut Kohl towers above the Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, whose draconian budget may not satisfy Germany or France that Rome will keep its deficit down

The drive to qualify for monetary union by next year's deadline makes this crunch time for governments to draw up harsh budgets. John Hooper in Rome reports on how protests and rows, like that

between

Italy, are

exposing

euro idea

France and

heart of the

tensions at the

Europe becomes swear word as day of reckoning looms

brought an ironic more than a few who question the wisdom of the drive for

monetary union. On Monday French teachers staged a 24-hour strike in protest against plans to axe 5,000 jobs: part of an austerity budget designed to ensure that the country's financial indicators meet the criteria agreed by European Union leaders at their summit in

Maastricht five years ago. On Tuesday more than German 100,000 engineering workers took to the streets to contest a new law allowing companies to reduce mini-mum statutory sick pay. That, too, is the product of a drive for budgetary stringency.
The deadline for compli-

ance with the Maastricht cri-teria is the end of next year. But now is the time governments are drawing up their 1997 budgets, making this their last chance to fall into line. The crunch has come,

VENTS in Europe this | heard across the Old | week must have | Continent.

Spain's El País has a good claim to have been the most enthusiastically communitaire of Europe's newspapers. pride of place on its opinion pages to a French journalist's criticisms of the institutional arrangements for monetary

Among the last to realise

that the day of reckoning has arrived was Italy's prime minister, Romano Prodidropped in on the Spanish prime minister, José Maria Aznar, he seemed under the impression that the issue need not be addressed for at least a year. Until a formight ago, his government planned a budget with a deficit well above the limit for the lira to enter the new euro.

It had been the common wisdom to doubt whether the euro area could be launched on time. But Professor Prodi's mistake was to ignore repeated French and German warnings that it could and would be.

Italian officials were then hastily ordered to cobble cut almost twice as deep into the deficit, and on Friday the cabinet approved perhaps the most draconian programme of tax increases and spending cuts dreamed up by a post-war Italian government.

According to official figures, the average family will pay £435 more tax. As realisation grows of the sacrifices to be made, attitudes are being transformed in a country

once dominantly pro-Europe.
The word Europe, which already inspired grave misgivings — for years now every increase, cut or belt-tightening has been put down to the need to bring Italy into line with Europe — is now almost a swear word," wrote Lietta Tornabuoni in yester-day's La Stampa newspaper. People are asking sardonically, why not go into Asia or Oceania if this is the price?"

The mood has not been improved by suggestions from the French president, Jacques Chirac, that Italy — with or without its draconian budget — will not be in shape by the end of next year. On Tuesday, Prof Prodi called in the French ambassador for a rare

The row, still simmering as the French and Italian leaders met in Naples yesterday, goes to the very heart of the reasons for - and the difficul-

tary union. As events have shown since the lira followed the pound out of the ERM in 1992, a single market has difficulty working without a single cur-rency. The subsequent depre-ciation of the lira has given Italian exporters a competitive advantage in the EU which is particularly

resented by France.

through a spokeswoman that he wanted the lira to appreciate further before joining the euro.

Italy, like the other southern countries sometimes disparagingly called "Club Med", has a poor record of budgetary discipline. So France — and to an even greater extent Germany while worried about the Italians staying out, fears the consequences of their being

let in.

The euro can be the solid currency Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants only if the govern-ments which use it keep their in balance. If any overspends, the others will have to underwhy the budget deficit as a percentage of gross domestic product has become the key yardstick of convergence

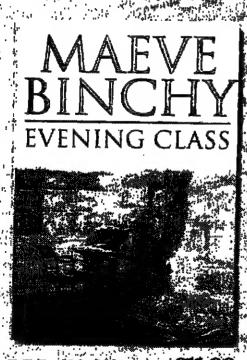
The worry is that the Ita ians in particular, having tightened their belts to get through the door, will loosen them once they are over the threshold. Indeed, Prof Prodi has suggested that is what presented his budget, he promised voters it would be

would make for Europe. Spain and Portugal made genuine, often painful sacrifices to modernise their economies and clean up their public finances. But despite several years of reform, the factors which in Italy have contributed towards high gov-ernment spending and low revenues are all still in evi dence: corruption, waste and

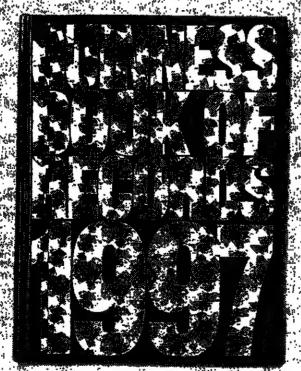
Italy's rightwing news-paper Il Giornale pointed out yesterday that, even after the budget, 180,000 people aged resented by France.

Even after backtracking on off pensions provided by local the question of Italy's readior central government.

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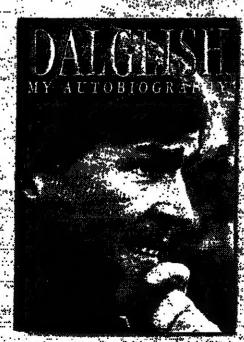
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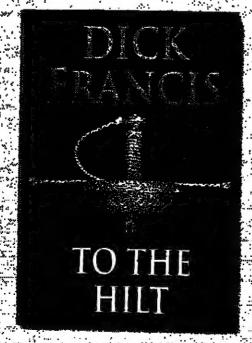
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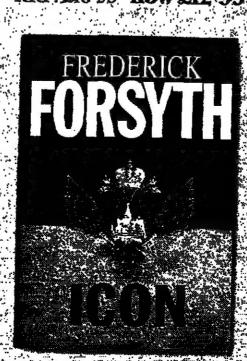
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Kohl starts countdown in Dublin to 'Maastricht Three' treaty

HE German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has served notice that he will push for a third Masstricht treaty if the present negotiations do not result in a sufficient reform and strengthening of the European Union, writes

John Palmer in Brussels. His call for a possible "Maastricht Three" treaty will ensure that British politics remain over-shadowed by the bitter domestic debate on Europe at least until the end of the

Speaking in Dublin be fore the special weekend EU summit, Mr Kohl said that, without progress in

the treaty review, an addi-tional treaty would be needed before the EU could absorb new members from central Europe and the Mediterranean.

"If our current negotiations do not solve all the problems, then there will be a Maastricht Three." said after meeting the Irish prime minister, John Bru-ton, who will host the Dub-lin talks.

Germany, France and the more integrationist EU governments accept that the treaty now being negoti-ated will not make all the moves towards political

Hague's new top prosecutor demands help for tribunal

Ed Yullamy

CANADA'S leading civil liberties judge, Louise Arbour, yesterday became the new chief prosecutor at The Hague war crimes tribunal, succeeding Justice Richard

Goldstone of South Africa.
Judge Arbour, aged 49, takes over at a critical period for the tribunal's credibility and judicial efficacy. Most of those indicted for crimes including expression in the form cluding genocide in the for-mer Yugoslavia and Rwanda are still free. In her introductory remarks yesterday, Judge Ar-

bour demanded that the inter-national community "en-hance its efforts" to aid the tribunal's investigations, even where assistance flew "in the face of short-term in-terests which militate against a long-term investment in peace rooted in justice". In what appeared to be crit-icism of I-For, the Nato force

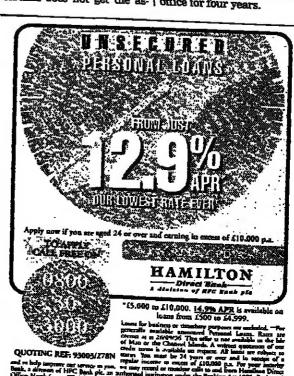
in Bosnia, she warned: "If the



in its efforts to bring indicted ceived failure may exacerbate the tensions that it was de-

signed to appease."

Justice Goldstone left saying the tribunal had little time to prove its mettle and its work had been hampered by outside diplomatic interests. Judge Arbour will hold



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Fresident Chirac les in person es spokeswomen es wanted the live les thanks the further before the te further before in like the orne. insite contents of the content extent German

salars of the property chird can be the six by Chancellor Heine Sover think has a respect to the sover than the first of the sover the sove THE IT SHY ON A THE SHEET to composite The property of th ek of convergence wary is that the he n particular have b the door we ince they are all the control of the ated his bades Aniers if hore & ast sacrifire make for E. and Portiss 25

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強調を受ける対した。 データー 2000年 2000 And accept that to the most many all to

tribunal

The Guardian Friday October 4 1996 Baby

hurt in

gang

blast

HE bloody, protracted

war between rival Scan-

dinavian motorbike

gangs — which has claimed six lives in the past two years

flared in Sweden yesterday when a bomb exploded in a

clubhouse near Malmo used by Hell's Angels, injuring a

baby and three people.

The attack just before dawn

is the latest in Nordic battles

for territory which echo the United States' motorcycle

gang wars. The blast wrecked the club-

house and caused damage to

tions of walls are down and tiles were blown off the roof."

None of the injured was connected with the Hell's An-

gels. Twenty families were evacuated from their homes. Police described the explosion as a new twist in a

war between the Angels and a rival bike gang, the Bandidos.

In fights the gangs have used

bombs, guns, knives, gre-nades and — on one occasion

— anti-tank missiles.

The war parallels fights by "brother" gangs in the United

States. The Bandidos, which is linked to a gang of the same name in Texas, is trying to

challenge the underworld "au-thority" of the Hell's Angels. In the bomb attack, the baby and three adults were hurt by

flying glass and debris.

Three men, believed to be Hell's Angels, emerged dazed but unburt from the clubhouse, in which it is believed

The fighting began in 1994 when a Hell's Angel was shot

dead in the southern Swedish

port of Helsingborg. In March a Finnish leader

of the Bandidos, Jarkko Kokko, was shot in Helsinki.

Nine days later a Danish Bandidos leader was killed

and two companions wounded outside Copenhagen airport. In an almost simulta-

neous attack a Norwegian

Randido was wounded as he

In July a Danish Bandido

Scandanavian politicians

was shot in the head near the

Norwegian city of Drammen.

have called for a ban on the

gangs, but a liberal tradition of freedom of association has so far ruled it out.

arrived at Oslo airport.

He died of his wounds.

Ed Yulliamy

President goes on the air while the voiceless act out their anger. DAVID HEARST in Moscow reports

هرك ا من الرحل



Russian soldiers in Grozny erect a board with the names of interior ministry servicemen who died during the fighting in Chechenia. President Yeltsin has praised General Alexander Lebed for helping to stop the war PROTOGRAPH: YURI TUTOV

Wily Yeltsin turns tables on Lebed

broadcasting a six-minute message from his bedside, designed to show that he was still in charge.

'I said before the elections and repeat now — don't rush to change the portraits. The country has a president and an active president at that!" the familiar voice boomed in many homes throughout

As proof that the 65-year-old patient awaiting open heart surgery had not lost his touch, Mr Yeltsin dealt defly

donna who could not work with others. He said in a later television

address: "He needs to get down to business now, carry out the tasks he already has and make more effort to work with the prime minister and

with the other services.
"You can't quarrel with everyone all the time. You can't settle issues that way. Our state apparatus must live in peace."

Gen Lebed apparently

threatened to resign over the appointment of Yuri Baturin, with, ar resignation threat that the state of the security adviser, from his security adviser, adviser, to a post overseeing top military appointments: a post den Lebed was given in advantage by ordering Gen Lebed was given in Lebed back to work. He dential team.

ORIS YELTSIN painted a picture of Gen Mr Yeltsin made it more brought new life to Lebed as a squabbling prima difficult for Gen Lebed to the hospital radio by donna who could not work supporting him on the Chechenia peace deal, about which he had been so beavily

criticised in parliament. The deal received a further boost when it was formally endorsed by the prime minister. Viktor Chernomyrdin, after talks with the leader of the separatists and the self-proclaimed president of Ichkeria (Chechenia), Zelimkhan Vondenbussy.

Yandarbiyev. Both leaders signed a declaration of principles, establishing a joint commission to set up new government struc-tures and organise local

Mr Chernomyrdin called the document a "big step in the right direction".

Russians suffer in silence

has been made for a mass evacuation from the Arctic

INTER is coming and for the first time in decades Russla is unprepared for it. Fuel and food are so low in the Arctic north that the ministry of emergency situ-ations has plans for a mass

The far eastern region of by power cuts, because it too is unable to pay fuel bills. Most factories are still working at a fraction of their workers sent away on unpaid leave. Most soldiers have not been paid since July and many min-ers since May.

Outside Moscow and St

Petersburg, all the condi-tions exist for the social explosion — or at the least a general strike — which communist and nationalist deputies have long been predicting. But it has not happened.

Funerals attract larger crowds than political meet-ings. Picket lines around the White House, the seat of federal government, are two a penny: ministers drive through them, their tory's 70,000 workers are banners flap impotently in left, and of these 4,000 are the autumn wind, their working in its kindergar-so quiet on the streets.

An emergency plan | shouts are drowned by the tens, clinics and hostels. has been made for | shouts are drowned by the tens, clinics and hostels. No one Most are unemployed, although they are still techniask them who they are.

People who cannot make their voice heard turn to desperate acts. Last week a worker walked up to the city administration building in Abakan, a large in-dustrial centre in Siberia, and set himself alight. Mik-hail Gerasimov was taken to hospital with 80 per cent burns, murmuring: "No work, no money, how to

In Kamchatka, Lieuten-ant Yevgeny Golubyev, per-Primorski Krai is crippled sonal aide to the captain of a naval escort ship, shot himself. He had last been paid in June. He left his wife the following message: "Anichka, excuse me, if you can, but I am tired. Finally all my problems have ended. Take care of Nastya [their daughter]."

The Zil factory, which made the limousine of the Soviet elite, is like a ruined city. Production lines designed to build 200,000 lorries a year turned out just 5,000 in the first six months of this year. Last week stray dogs roamed around the direc-

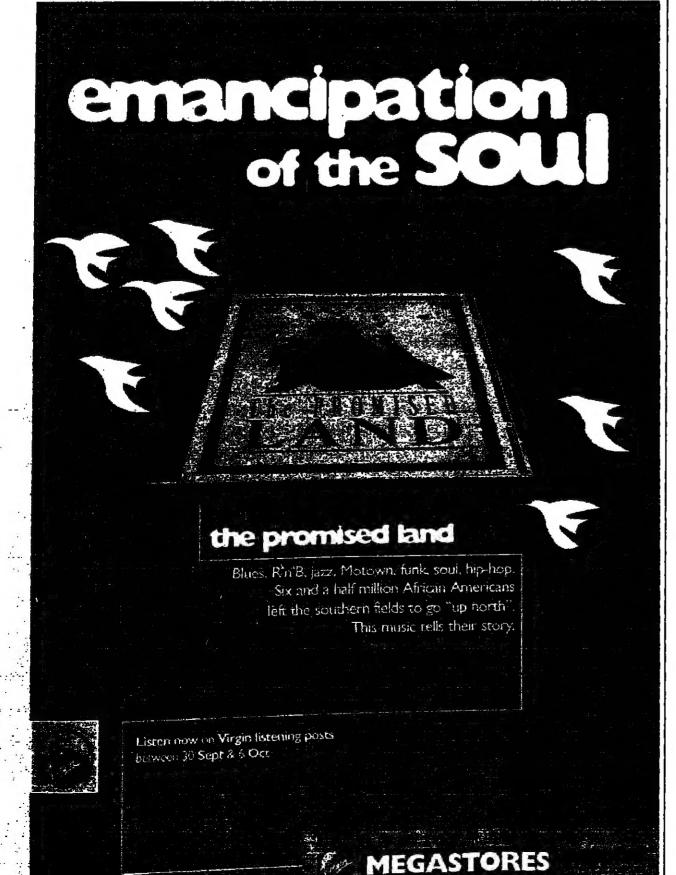
cally registered at the

factory.
The chairman of the Zil trade union committee, Mikhail Alliluyev, tried un-successfully to organise a co-ordinated strike with other trade unions. "So this was what worker solidarity has come to," he

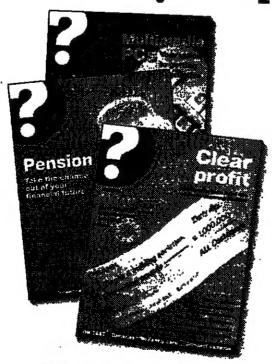
Zil is being rescued by the government, which has promised to buy its lorries and open credit lines to get production rolling again. Mr Alliluyev is cautious about "throwing stones which don't reach their

target". Everyone knows the target is not the local management, but the government. "You in the West have laws and courts," he said. "Here you are not defended in any way. You can be killed. You can be trampled

"Besides if it were possible to organise a political strike, there would be a civil war. You know how all this happens in Russia. At first nothing happens and then when the probtor's entrance, where the official picket should have been. The pickets had which everyone is beaten. knocked off an hour early.
Only 20,000 of the facsible or not."



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The Guardian

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Blair steers for office

But the Tories must avoid the rocks next week

embarrassments over the Red Flag this morning, this has been Labour's most united and successful party conference of modern times. At its high point, Tony Blair made an enthusiastically received speech which skillfully reached out to the different wings of the party without sacrificing any of the principles which have made his leadership so effective in winning public support for Labour. Party leaders managed to broker a deal over the only issue - pensions which had genuinely threatened to disrupt the week. There were few moments if any to disturb the party managers, and even those about which they were apprehensive - like Baroness Castle's appearance on Wednesday helped in the end to cement the party rather than to pull it apart. The week has been marked by some very effective political interventions, of which yesterday's Dunblane presentation was especially powerful. And last night the conference voted to adopt Mr Blair's wideranging Road to the Manifesto document, the next stage in a consultative process which will now take in all party members before it is finally confirmed next month. Mr Blair will helicopter out of Blackpool this afternoon a deservedly happy man.

All in all, Blackpool has been just what Labour ordered. Mr Blair and his team have got their way over everything, mostly without a serious fight and in all cases without disturbing the surface calm. Mr Blair is now in total command of his party, but there is absolutely no doubt either that the party is consensually performing as one. It is overwhelmingly focused upon defeating the Conservatives at the coming election, and there is almost no pocket of resistance to the voluntary self-discipline which nowadays characterises the Labour Party in a way that, a decade ago, it distinguished the Con-

BARRING any improbable last minute | servatives. Even on issues which everyone knows divide the party in private, lic. Deeply contentious and important benefit all came and went without significant or even any dissentient voices heard. Anyone who threatens to create a discord, like Baroness Turner last night, is summarily dumped overboard. Partly this reflects the party's own overwhelming wish to win, but it is also a tribute to the fact that Labour has now built itself the most formidable

> price. Labour is by no means fully prepared, either organisationally or culturally, for the immense transformation which government would bring. It has yet to find a way of conducting an intelligent, grown-up debate about serious issues without everything being treated as a loyalty test. But Labour's self-discipline is a reaction against the party's catastrophic experiences of the 1980s. Those events still cast a shadow. That is why this was the week that the party managers had feared. If it had gone wrong, the fallout would have dictated the whole pre-election agenda. It could even have tempted John Major to cut and run in a snap autumn election. That is not going to happen now. The only party that may stumble this autumn is the Conservative Party, and Bournemouth next week will be a much more dangerous political event than anything that has happened at Blackpool. British politics is approaching the general election with the government seemingly destined for opposition and the opposition, after a formidable week in the north, heading for government.

Middle East talks on a tinder

Mr Netanyahu should swap immaturity for statesmanship

cludes with one side (Israel) hailing it a success and the other side (the Palestinians) lamenting that it has failed is founded in ambiguity and may collapse very quickly as a result. It was followed yesterday by a comparatively quiet day on the West Bank, but this was a shaky lull with Hamas already threatening to take action today. On the positive side, the willingness of both leaders to go to Washington did indicate an awareness that the situation was whirling out of control. But if there is a sort of peace, it is the peace of grave disquiet.

In their Washington talks, Binyamin Netanyahu rejected all of Yasser Arafat's priority demands, from setting a date to withdraw Israeli forces out of Hebron to closing the infamous archeological tunnel in East Jerusalem. It is a sign of Mr Arafat's weakness that he still gave the Israeli prime minister what he needed: a commitment to resume negotiations which implies that Palestinian anger will be kept under restraint. The optimistic view is that Mr Netanyahu has also taken on an implicit obligation to move on Hebron very soon, setting some kind of timescale for withdrawal. But it is an assumption which Mr Arafat clearly did not feel entitled to claim.

Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu had managed to shake hands before leaving the White House but it was a very different mood from the famous handshake three years ago between Mr Arafat and Mr Rabin. The dominant image | given, very soon.

A SUMMIT conference which con- | now is that of the two leaders sitting in awkward silence while President Clinton, not much more at ease, conducted the end-of-summit press conference by himself. Mr Clinton begged the people of the Middle East to "give us a change to make this thing work in the days ahead" - a remarkable confession. on behalf of those who should be in charge, that they are close to losing their grip.

> The situation on the ground draws ess attention unless stones are being thrown or guns are fired. But it is grim to the point which makes a near-mockery of diplomatic discourse. In Hebron. 94,000 Arab residents remain under curfew - allowed just three hours out of their homes yesterday - while 450 Jewish settlers can move around town freely. Travel across the West Bank continues to be severely restricted, compounding the hardship already caused by the ban on entry of Palestinian workers into Israel. Israeli tanks are in position with open threats from their commanders to use them against renewed Palestinian violence — disproportionate force with a vengeance. One bright countervailing signal was the huge rally on Tuesday night organised by Peace Now in Tel Aviv, and the sober criticism widely voiced in the Israelf press against the wilful immaturity of Mr Netanyahu. Expectations must now be low: getting through to the resumption of talks (at a lower level) on Sunday will be an achievement. But something will have to give, or be

An inquiry in need of resources

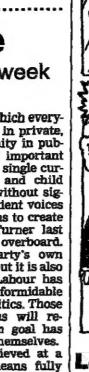
Sir Gordon needs professional help if he is to move quickly

IT IS a rich irony that the first new victim of the Hamilton Affair should be from the Labour benches. The Opposition moved quickly to remove Baroness Turner from her role as Lords Spokesman on Employment once she publicly defended Ian Greer, on whose board she sits. Lady Turner seems to have been guilty of little more than naivety, but she has paid for it with her job. There is a stark contrast with John Major's continuin mouselike silence on Neil Hamilton's already proveable guilt of

lying to the Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Major has at least confirmed his willingness to hand over all government documents to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner. It is vital now that Sir Gordon moves with all speed, and that his Commons Privileges and Standards Committee urgently makes available to him all the resources he needs - including the

who can help him interpret the vast documentation that is about to land on his desk. It would be a scandal if the course that Mr Hamilton has now cynically adopted should find itself unable to produce a report before the General Election. Yet time is short, there is a huge amount of documentation to sift through and many witnesses to see.

There is one other matter. One of the



there has been undented unity in pubquestions like the European single currency, Scottish devolution and child party machine in British politics. Those who imagine that divisions will reemerge once the short-term goal has been reached are deluding themselves. All of this has been achieved at a



Letters to the Editor

The fathers fight back

EADING Sean French's article (Tales of ordinary sadness, October 2), I was able to ignore the many references to Bob Gelders are invested to the same invest dof's application for "custody" of his children — a con-cept abolished by the 1989 Children Act.

However, I will not forgive the outrageous assertion that "the courts have a traditional presumption in favour of the mother". Just what is Mr rench's authority for that wholly inaccurate statement? Does he not realise he is misinforming many vulnerable people who find themselves in the unfortunate situation of family breakdown?

There are many lawyers working in the field of family law — many of them members of the Solicitors Family Law Association - who are committed to the non-adversartal and sensitive approach to conflict resolution. It is important that people are aware of the availability of this facility.

Nicola Fernyhough. Rowley Grove,

N asserting that most div orced fathers don't want an equal right when it comes to child custody, Sean French is mistaking outcome for motive. Knowing courts almost always favour the mother, it is unsurprising that fathers end up cynical, especially when their money is sought to make up for the custody they could never hope to win.

The last word

CONTINUING your quest for the worst in modern

bollocks-speak (Letters, Octo-ber 3, 2, 1), what about the

Sincere-o-Matic synthesisers

that help keep the privatised

utilities enquiry-proof and BT solvent? "All our operators

are busy right now. Your call

will be answered in approxi-

mately ... one ... four ...

Boothtown, Halifax HX3 6NX.

ON a recent trip to south-ern Poland, our inter-preter (who spoke most Euro-

pean languages fluently) told us that he had discovered what he regarded as the most

precise word in any language:

bollocks. He said he had found

it most valuable in the uni-

versity where he worked, as it

minutes. Please hold."

Arthur Wardell.

French asserts that fathers ! seek to protect their "right to walk out on families"; even though in his own case-study Paula Yates walked out on Bob Geldof, and got custody of the kids to boot, an outcome few fathers could hope for. The real tragedy is that fathers like Geldof have to cling to misconduct allegations to have any chance of

bringing up their children. Given the chance, nobody sts they do a worse job than their ex-wives, but the judiciary persists in protect-ing and perpetuating our stereotypes. That way mothers stay maternal and single mothers stay poor, the better to be scapegoated by Michael Howard. M C Pires.

rue Marx Dormoy, 75018 Paris,

SEAN French dismisses the plight of responsible fathers denied fair access to their children on the grounds that other fathers behave less than responsibly. Why not Feminists fail to realise

that their demands on men to give up their traditional eco nomic privileges must be matched by equal willingness in women to sacrifice their traditional emotional privi eges, including ones concern ing custody of children. Peter Totman. Aston Road, Raynes Park,

APPARENTLY
IT'S ALL ABOUT
SOMEBODY
SPENDING A
B HAROL
DAY WALKING

HERE may be many fathers who don't want equal rights to their children but there are many, including myself, who do, who are willing to look after their child-ren but are denied the oppor-tunity to do so (or in some cases even contact) by mothers.

To suggest as Mr French does, that fathers are some how incapable of looking after their children is complete prejudice, which is un-fortunately often upheld by the courts.

Mr French's stereotyping does not stop at fathers. His depiction of single mothers (worn-out: tower blocks; etc) equally insulting to the majority of single mothers who do not fit this image. Stephen Hall. Southampton Street, Brighton BN2.

SEAN French lambasts Bob Geldof's campaign for fathers' rights. Why doesn't he imagine the following scenario? Tomor-row his adulterous wife difamily home, and refuses to allow access to his children.

Not a nice thought, but a grim reality for an increasing number of fathers today. Contact orders, though usually granted by the courts, are efectively unenforceable. Res ponsible fathers and innocent children are the true victims. Richard Gregory. Carthew Villas,

one great influence of his life

shadow that forever lay over him." In Pinter's case, it is still a great Hackney-London-

Jewish shadow that lays over

him, compounded by subse-quent experiences such as a traumatic divorce, betrayals,

Billington has only rediscov-

that the process never en

Northern Illinois University.

(Prof) William Baker.

Department of English

a great Irish Catholic

Why a decent pension policy will pay dividends in the future

DARBARA Castle and Peter | base cost of the pensioners Townsend (Castle de- shopping basket. The old clares war in pensions figures fight, October 1) continue pro-posing a pension reform which would cheat millions of pensioners. That has been the outcome of Serps and their campaign has been all about deceiving the poorest pensioners once again.

While it was understand-able for Barbara Castle to introduce Serps in the 1970s, it has had its benefits halved by the Tories, only for its pro-posed budget to be halved yet again. Millions of pensioners signed up to Serps believing Barbara Castle's rhetoric that they would get generous pen-sions. They now know they have been sold short.

No Labour government can guarantee that a future Tory administration will not wreck a rebuilt Serps scheme as pro-posed yet again by Barbara Castle. That is why it is im-portant to find a way that is less open to such brutal government action. Extending funded pensions offers the best chance, and a challenge ment will be to make this provision universal

Frank Field MP. London SWIA QAA

/OUR leader (October 1) I looks at facts the wrong way round. The truth is the reverse: there will be no growth without fairness. Here

is a case in point.

As one of this country's poorest pensioners, when my 15-year-old iron recently packed up, I could not afford to buy a new one. My daughter, who bought a new iron herself only six months ago, gave me her old one, the same model as my defunct one, but only 12 years old. Economic result one new iron sold between two people, instead of one new iron each — therefore manufacturers' and dis-

PERHAPS a Labour govern-ment will not only look at

Ruscombe

Stroud, Glos.

tributors' income halved. If the younger generation will not bludgeon government of whatever colour into fair-ness, they can start saving up their cardboard boxes for chests of drawers and storage units, cut up their cereal packets for writing paper, and their old copies of the Guard-lan for tollet paper. Felicity Crow. Spring Cottage, Middle Spring,

the mechanism for increasing state pensions, but also at the

shopping basket. The old

come out very badly from being tied to the national average consumption.

The whole trend of the market economy is the reduction of prices where larger markets can be won. Thus the RPI is reduced as new products such as electronics achieve massive consumption. So, for example, the lower prices of camcorders or mobile phones actually reduce the state pension. Even in the pricing of services a similar process applies. Standing charges for

> consumption is rewarded by lower unit prices There is also a difference in purchasing patterns in ser-vices. As people become old they have to abandon DIY activities. They are forced to rely on contractors for home maintenance, decoration and repairs. Call-out charges are

utilities go up while greater

not cheap. The expense of being old is compounded in widowhood. The old adage that two can live as cheaply as one is reversed. One must live dearly as two.

Joe Ball. 9 Broadlands Close. London N6 4AF.

AM prepared to vote for any party which will do something to help my friend Tess. She and I are both over 60, but her income is about £56 a week while mine is about £109. Tess suffers from three

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Party Services

hig disadvantages:

She isn't entitled to a full single person's pension. For the DSS, your working life is regarded as 44 years, and you need to have actually worked and paid stamps for almost the whole of this to be entitled to the full basic pension. Tess and I had both worked for less than the prescribed period, and she also had paid the old 'married-woman' low-rate stamp, so that when we came to draw our pensions we found ourselves allocated less

than £30 a week each.

Tess is not a widow. She has been deserted by her husband, who pays her no maintenance. So the only state help she can get is to have her pension topped up by Income Support to about £56 a week. I am a widow, and receive the state widow's pension plus the widow's half of my late husband's occupational pen-

sion — a total of £109 a week. I am sure that there must be many other pensioners with the same or similar problems. Cannot their posi-tion be eased somehow? Name and address supplied.

and coming to terms with establishment acceptance. Eric Lawson. session — asking me not to 19 Grasmere Road, Marsh, publish certain bibliographi-It is pleasing to know that Huddersfield HD1 4LH. all these years later Michael

support of the lawyers and accountants | to act over Mr Hamilton's lie.

members of the committee which will eventually receive Sir Gordon's report is Doug Hoyle, the Labour MP for Warrington. Since it has now been disclosed that Mr Hoyle's 1987 election fund received a donation of £500 from Ian Greer Associates he will surely see that it would be inappropriate to sit in judgement on these matters. It would be better if he were to step down from the committee speedily - thereby drawing a further contrast between Labour's reponse and John Major's unwillingess

downmarket, September 30). You accused him of lack of tudement in his choice of material I think your heading showed an extraordinary lack

Liz Crowther. Popesgrove Mansions, Heath Road, Twickenham,

THE nature lobby (Guardian September 27) should be cautious in asking for too many toad, hedgehog and now otter tunnels under motorways. Some years ago, when living near the motorway triangle between the M25 and M26, I noticed the area was devoid of squirrels; and some years later had the opportunity of re-introducing red squirrels, which are still. I believe, doing very well, Peter Abbott.

Barnsley S75. Please include a full postal address, even on e-malled letters, and a telephone numbe We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

II Pinter and betrayal: Act II

LD PINTER

observes that "even though [Joyce] spent most of his life abroad, all his work was about Dublin, which was the

ICHAEL Billington's ob-servations about Harold Pinter (Acts of betrayal, September 24) contain, in essence, nothing new. In my 1973 study of Pinter, I demon strate that the dramatist drew upon his own life and experi-ence, and transmogrified these facts into great drama and poetry.

Prior to the publication of

Downs School and one in par-

ticular deals with the young,

15-year-old Pinter referring to

James Joyce, especially to De Kalh, Dubliners and Ulysses. Pinter | Illinois 60115-2853, US.

was immediately understood, without translation, by work-mates and students alike. my work. Pinter sent me a set of telegrams — still in my poscal details concerning his early writings, which he wished to suppress. He then WHAT a shoddy headline you gave to my father Leslie's obituary (Come on changed his mind. Some of this material concerns brilliant essays written whilst he was a schoolboy at Hackney

Middlesex TW1. HE correspondents object-ing to Prof Nicholas Wald's

Church Street, Darton,

comparison of stroke prevention with pre-natal screening (Letters, October 1) have confused the issue by equating the interests of a potential human being with those of a living person. Once someone has been born, with or without a genetic defect, that per-son is entitled to all the care and support they need to live as foll a life as possible.

Malcolm Hurwitt. 61 Minterne Avenue Southall, Middx UB2 4HP. AM 63 and until 18 months

ago suffered from Wolf Par-

kinson White syndrome, a

genetic heart disease. It is

Pro-life, when it's worth living hard to draw too strong a-p ture of this experience. After a successful operation at Hare-field Heart Hospital, I am com-

pletely cured. Unlike your correspondents, one of whom accepts spina bifida and breast cancer as not being reasons for prophylactic abortion, I would have anyone doomed to the lifelong experi-ence that I had to endure aborted. Such suffering should never be inflicted on anyone. Your correspondents fall to differentiate between making the best of a bad job and inflicting such horrible experiences on the unborn. (Dr) A Sandman. Sharpieshall Street.

A Country Diary ered what was there before in print, but then, to quote Joan

Bakewell, "we go on betray-ing, don't we? . . . The irony is morning at first light. Jim Martin, warden of Northum. nature reserve at Hauxley, north of Druridge Bay, patrols his 67-acre patch. He checks bird and animal species and the five hides there (these have recently been vandalised). In June he was listening to what he at first thought was a sedge warbler when he noticed a distinctive harsh note in the call "I recognised it as a reed warbler," he said. "Two weeks later I saw the bird carrying food in its beak so I knew it must be nesting nearby." Jim actually saw the insects in the bird's beak without the aid of binoculars, Weeks later he found the reed warbler's nest, a work of art built around three or four reed stems and by then abandoned. These nests are interesting because they are at-tached to young reeds and, as these grow, the nest rises on its supports. This nest represents the most northerly breeding site of the species on record in the county. For the

NORTHUMBERLAND: Every | second year in succession a little ringed plover has nested at the reserve and this sumberland Wildlife Trust's mer raised three chicks. A gadwall, which superficially resembles a female mallard, nested here for the first time hatched eleven chicks and fledged seven of them. I studied the blackboard in the Hauxley visitor centre and counted an impressive tally of butterflies recorded. "This has been a great summer for butterflies," said Jim. "Hundreds of painted ladies, a migratory species from the continent and an unusual

number of common blues." It is encouraging to hear that there are ambitious plans for the opencast recovery land adjacent to Hauxley soon to get under-way. A hundred acres of flagmites reeds (these are big ones like those on the Norfolk marshes); 60 acres of linked ponds with East Chevington burn and nearly 100 acres of woodland. The aim is to atract bittern, marsh harrier, bearded tits and, of course, more reed warbler

VERONICA HEATH

1 00 1 Da.

MONG the more radi-

cal measures in his rousing conference

then, to learn of dissension

bench. Interviewed in Wired magazine, Ashfield

MP Geoff Hoon speaks warmly of the Internet it-

self, but worries about porn and fascist propaganda. "In my previous life as a barris-

ter, I saw some pretty hard-

answer? "The simple solu-

tion I would say," says Mr

most children is you don't allow them access online."

Mr Hoon is a spokesman on

Trade and Industry, by the way, with special responsi-

bility for the information

ANE and rational Paul

Johnson is on top form in the Spectator with a

topical piece on Thomas Jef-

ferson, but the eye is caught by a line about Marigold, his

saintly wife. "She is busier than ever nowadays," writes Paul, "being a stu-dent psychotherapist..."

What an intriguing choice

doesn't travel too far for ma-terial for her homework.

reach me of a cooling between Dolly

Draper and Oofy Wegg-Prosser, both of whom wish

to be Mandy Mandelson's

number-one helper in the

office — but each, it seems, fears the other is supplant-

ing him in Mandy's affec-tions. In Blackpool, during

an acidic exchange, Dolly

asked Oofy: "Do you think you have filled my shoes?"

overheard saying, "I'm quit-ting full-time politics, I'm leaving." The potential blow to Labour is incalculable,

makes the policy . . . the one who gets them elected".

ning elections is af-fecting an interest in the local football team

Labour, even before he was

caveat: when using the team to boost your credentials as

a genuine local, you must on

no account get badly lost on the way to the ground. Puz-zle-king Gyles Brandreth

was an hour late last week to Chester City's match with

the attempt on the world

bubble-blowing record at

which he was supposedly

Tory way to shirk guilt, however, and Gyles is taking it on the chin: while

blaming his driver on the one hand, on the other he is

calling for better sign-posting to the ground.

AM captivated by a Daily Mail interview with Christine Hamilton. "As

Neil has pointed out," says Mrs Hamilton, "unlike cheques, unmarked notes can neither be proved nor disproved . . ." Such inti-mate knowledge of these

matters does both Hamil-

AVING become the cidest person to bungee jump a 102m canyon in Queenstown, New

Zealand, Joe Ashmore, 86,

told his wife Edith that he has "done round one", round two being a free fall from a plane. Mrs Ashmore,

who learnt about the jump

in a newspaper, is said to be displeased: when her hus-

home to visit his nephew in Queenstown, she told him

"not to do anything silly".

EANWHILE, in neighbouring Aus-tralia, a teenage con-

traceptive thief has been

When the 17-year-old

shown mercy by the bench.

pleaded guilty to nicking 24

condoms from a Wool-worth's in Sydney, his solic-

only had A\$5 on him, A\$4.29 too little. When asked "did

he have an urgent need?" by

itor told the court that he

Magistrate Stephen Scar-

lett, the solicitor replied:

"Your worship will notice

band left their Balclutha

tons great credit.

salected), but there is one

(Mandy was off to watch Hartlepool, according to Andy McSmith's Paces Of

LSO helpful in win-

since Dolly, as he has an-nounced, is "the one who

and a little later he was

ISTURBING rumours

of subject. Let's hope she

Hoon, whose 11-year-old son is allowed a modem, "for

core pornography that I wouldn't want my children to see." So what's the

from one his own front

Out of the last

DON 8088Y YOU'VE WATEDMY ELECTROS TASTE ALARM SOME DAYS YOU JUST HAVE YOUR TROUSERS AND WALKAWAY

STEM # LABOUR - NO GUNS. TANK BADTRSTE DUS TO CHANGE

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the time—11.30pm on a Fri-day night." Moments later, the defendant was let off with a caution.

speech, Mr Tony Blair once again focused on the information superhighway, promising that one priority in government will be giving all children access to the Internet. I am distressed,

Peter **Preston**

EEN there, done that not looking forward ecstatically to doing it again. Which is another way of saying that twice last year I patrolled through the corridors of Westminster self-regulation: first as wit-ness to the Select Committee on Members' Interests, then as quasi-defendant before the Privileges Committee. Those two bodies, after Nolan, have now been rolled into one, the Committee on Standards and Privileges. It's here that the case of Mr Neil Hamilton will probably be decided — beyond the hurdles of Sir Gordon Downey and a sub-committee

of the full committee, before the cauldron of the whole

attribute (Int

1994, as the Members' Interthe Guardian about Neil Hamilton's stay at the Ritz: he's also read Mohamed Al Fayed

on cash and questions. He wants an investigation. November turns to Decem ber and (three meetings on) to per and (inree meetings on) to January. A Labour bid for an open hearing is voted down. The committee, of course, has a Conservative majority. It even, bizarrely, has a Government Whip, Andrew Mitchell, as one omnipresent member It is a full three months after the Guardian story that I'm called to give evidence. Mr

Hamilton sits, glaring, two feet behind me.

Hamilton was "imprudent" not to have registered his week at the Ritz, however confusing the rules. But he's resigned as a minister — in-deed, had done so before any of this started — so no further action. Time the Great Healer has used a ton of Band-Aid. Meanwhile, of course, I'm hopping from one tub of hot

office, for instant, handy use: but let that benignly pass.) The Privileges Committee, unlike Members' Interests, doesn't appear to list its meet ings. Or perhaps it couldn't find a moment to deliberate moned grilling on June 21. Committee back him up? How 1995. It certainly took an interminable while to decide to call Mr Al Fayer November call Mr Al Fayer November that was due to the form weeking a few and that was due to can hir Ai rayen (November 1, 1995, a full year after that parliamentary "emergency"). The report itself wasn't published until January 23, 1996. No further action in my case. And no further action is my case. And no further action on Mr Al Fayed's more wide-ranging allegations, which were duly referred to the "new Commit-tee on Standards and Privileges". That's the "dossier" Harrods keep talking about. It is now, in case you're getting disoriented, October 4, 1996. Time, the Great Duvet.

HE force of Nolan was

to say, with high ur-gency, that such mish-mashes of delay and

all-round political calculation

couldn't endure, or be en-

JP1100150

dured any longer. He implanted Gordon Downey at the heart of the system, as an outside power of independence. But MPs, of course, clung tightly to the privilege of self-regulation (the same privilege they waived when they allowed Neil Hamilton to Sir Gordon is, at root, a servant of the House. His find-ings go to a sub-committee and then a full committee. The political balances natu-rally remain. Nolan wanted him "to be able to send for persons, papers and records"

— but vested those powers in the Standards Committee ("To give the powers person ally to the Commissioner

take four weeks in court after almost two years of preparation?
I don't wish to be a spaniel from hell, or anywhere else: but already you can hear the ancestral voices confecting phoney war. Sir James Spicer a member of the old Privilege Committee, could be encoun tered this week denouncing the Guardian's "wild allega-tions" before his breakfast egg had boiled. How does he know? Where is he coming

from?

echo of the greater Westmin-ster system. It was just an-other cockpit of contention. It could stretch timescales at will. The question now is whether Nolan, especially half-fat Nolan, has done enough. That majority is thinner than ever. Election fever ner than ever. Election lever is turning to plague. Has everyone involved — Govern-ment, Opposition, back-benchers, committee, commis-sioners — now the absolute determination to make the new way work in the open?

Just for myself, I hope they
do. It wasn't a pleasant or
easy couple of years going
through the mill — though newspapermen with a job to do can't complain about that. What struck much more forcibly, though, was the grinding belligerence which any ordinery complainant was stuck with too. The news that some-thing was wrong wasn't wel-comed, but often bitterly resented. The messenger took his lumps. That can't be right either: a Parliament that

I found, at first hand, what

didn't gell in the old system. It was, inevitably, a political

So should the HFEA have allowed Mandy to have fertil-ity treatment at all? Over the past few weeks she has cut a particularly unattractive fig-ure. Supposing all eight bables could have been born? What kind of a mother would she have made? On Newsnight earlier this week, even Dr Wendy Savage fudged her answer when the question was

ability for parenting? And if it were, would this not come

"Women are completely in-visible," she says. "There is no sense that the HFEA is concerned about the people who are receiving this treatment." they give to the clinics.

In the old days, what the HFEA does would have been handled by the Department of Health instead of this quango, which has been given the But should there be a law power to decide questions against it? Mandy Allwood with one consultative docu-A quarter of a century ago it was demonstrably unwise to ment which the combined was that simple. Limiting have refused a selective forces of the world's depart-

decisions we don't approve of, we don't even know what deci-

sions they are making and

The Tory MP and the holiday in the Bahamas



Bel Littlejohn

O get him, lads - and then give him a kick in the groin from Bel! That was my first thought on seeing Wednesday's front page of the Guardian, bless it. "A liar and a cheat" — that's telling it like it is! For far too long we ordinary decent vot-ers have been subjected to the heartless bullying tactics of Tory MPs. Now at last we had one of 'em nailed, good and proper, begging for his life. But Hamilton's activities—

tive and breathtakingly cul-tured Guardian editor's noble and to my mind utterly praiseworthy chastisement of their perpetrator — raise the much larger issue of the way people will do anything to suck up to those in power. As the senior Guardian columnist with special responsibilities for issues of private con-science and public morality, I first became aware of Tory aleaze rumours in the late 1980s whilst holidaying in the Airways and the excellent Travel-in-Style Suitcase plc. On that smashing winter break (beautifully smooth flight, and my set of Travelin-Style suttcases is still going strong) I noticed, over the other side of the swimming pool, a backbench Tory MP and his lady friend sipping what looked suspiciously like champagne on their sunloungers. The word "corrup-tion" was swift to raise its ugly head. How could this Tory MP afford this sort of jet-set high-life on a back-bencher's salary? This is a

question that demands to be answered in an open society. tion that I put to my then partner (whose identity, inci-dentally, is a purely private matter between him, if it was a him, and me, if it was me). My partner (BA's double-tickets are a swift and easy solution to holiday problems — thank guys!) said that the Tory MP and his wife (if she was his wife - we all know about Tories going on holiday with people they're not exactly married to!) were obviously "on the take". We both

much did it cost? 3) What do you mean you don't know how much it cost? 4) Do you really expect me to believe that? 5) And who's that woman with you? 6) So where's the marriage certificate? 7)
Did you and your so-called
"Wife" write a thank-you letter for your holiday? 8) If not,
why not? 9) Are you really no
betier than a slug — yes or
no? 10) If you're not guiltre. no? 10) If you're not guilty, why am I asking you questions like these? Back home, putting the fin-ishing touches to my hard-hitting travel piece ("Pack Your Travel-in-Style Bag for tour Travel-In-Style Bag for the Romantic BA Holiday of a Lifetime" by Bel Littlejohn, the Guardian, October 19, 1989) and grappling for hours with losing this and that on expenses, I got to worrying about the moral and financial

ment his plane touched down

turpitude endemic in our po-litical system. MPs of all parties seem prepared to stab any colleague in the back in the fight for promotion. By this time, I had, of course, risen to the giddy heights of Chief Leader Writer — the previous incum-bent had been forced to resign after the Editor had been informed by an anony-mous source — known only as "BL" — that he was plot-ting for his job. My new role Bahamas, courtesy British placed me in an excellent position to set the world of politics to rights — and about time too! Though I say it myself, my editorials acquired a

legendary status among my peers for their moral force

Y first contribution roundly castigated the Thatcher government for the gross immorality of its plans for a poll tax. "It is our deepest wish that any local government tax should prove itself as effi-cient, sturdy and long-lasting as a Travel-in-Style suitcase, I boomed. "And if Mr Ridley, Mrs Thatcher and the rest of the motley Tory crew want advice on top-class manage-ment, we suggest they apply to the excellent management training scheme run by the excellent British Airways."

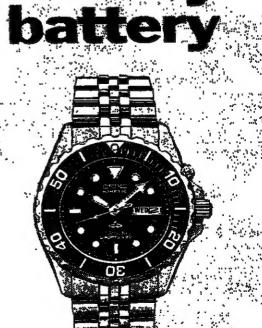
But the Hamilton case

makes me wonder whether my words were not written in vain. And I am not alone. At the delicious dinner for journalists provided at this week's launch of the fabulous new Oxo Tower Restaurant, the talk turned to the way politicians have succumbed one gets a holiday of this in Thatcherism. The so-called calibre without having to "cash-for-questions" scandal sing for their supper.

I had no actual proof that

I posed in a freelance article

Good-bye



Welcome to the future: Seiko Kinetice, the firstquartz watch that turns your movement into power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse. Ecological, reliable and efficient: wear it one day to gain energy for at least two weeks. Wear it daily - it will run continually. Made of titanium: light, yet strong and kind to your skin. 20 ber water resistant. One-way rotating bezel endscrew lock crown. Seiko Kinetic - it's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

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Danger: Parliament Diary Matthew Norman turning a deaf ear

Commentary

So: off with the old, on with the new. But what was the old

politics? (Symptoms: a tiny | committee concludes that Neil majority, an approaching election.) Journey with me back in time to November 22, ests Committee meets to consider a complaint from the Liberal Democrat MP, Alex Carlile. Mr Carlile has read in

After I've gone, there are three votes on straight party lines. Labour wants to examine in parson Mr Greer and Mr Al Fayed as well as Mr Hamilton. The Conservatives

aren't having that. It takes six more meetings and five more votes to do the business their way. We began in October '94.

water to another, this one marked "cod fax". Sir Robin Butler, the supreme mandarin, and Mr Jonathan Aitken know about this in May 1994, but say and do nothing. It's only six months later, when Mr Aitken's Ritz stay becomes headlines, that the fax is somehow leaked to the Sunday Telegraph. I'm denounced as "the hound from hell" in a Westminster debate. The "outrage" over House of Commons notepaper is rushed to the Privileges Committee. (I see in yesterday's Independent newspaper that Mr Ham-ilton left a stock of this sacred HoC paper at Mr Ian Greer's

really like? Were there a few We began in October '94. find a moment to deliberate viruses around that might (gently) be catching? What the end of May '95, the beginance about the raging fever called ning of summer, before the in November '94 and my sum-

would require primary legis-lation, and we do not believe that necessary at this stage." Will be, in the Hamilton case be able to insist on seeing those documents of Mr

Greer's that had not been de-livered via disclosure when the libel action collapsed on Monday? Will the Standards doesn't want to bear from the people is a Parliament the people evantually won't want. word to describe countries that have laws to make women have abortions is fascist.

> directly posed. It was not her medical discipline, she said. A doctor may well turn down a request for a particular form of treatment on the grounds, for example, of personal con-acience. But should a legal authority be established to deny the Mandy Allwoods of this world their fertility drugs on the grounds of their unsuit-

dangerously close to eugenics? HROUGHOUT the second half of this century the state has reluctantly, though progres-sively, pulled back from its control over the bodies of its but those of gay men, most recently in its lowering of the age of consent for homosexual-ity. Giving the HFEA more ity. Giving the HFEA more statutory power would be to this rory was in the pay of reverse that trend. In 1994 this or that travel firm — how could I, given the web of secould I, given the web of second from in vitro fertilisation. Of those only a handful would not fuffil what most of us would agree to be the criteria of "deserving cases". Mandy Allserving cases". Mandy All-wood, who abused and cheated the system, is thought to be a one off. Further empowering the HFEA would create very big laws for very small num-bers of Mandy Allwoods and geriatric wannabe mothers. So what should the HFEA

do? Today Naomi Pfeffer, a

medical historian at North

London University and author of The Stork And The Syringe

(Polity, 1993), will address a Royal Society of Medicine

Conference on IVF and de-nounce the authority.

And as she points out, it is infertile women who pay for the HFEA, for two-thirds of its resolve vast moral and ontofunding is creamed off the fees Its register of clinics is, she says, completely useless. It does not tell the infertile woman if it provides the service she needs. It monitors complaints but fails to inform whether the problem was dingy surroundings or being sexually assaulted by the docor. Its collection of statistics, unlike those gathered by the OPCS on abortion, gives no picture of who is receiving ireaiment, how old they are, what part of the country they live in, whether they were covand 20s, never bothered at all ered by the NHS or went pri-vately. In other words, in feelabout the rights of those who wanted children, only those who did not. They did not think of the 59-year-old British woman who wants to have a ing that we should create stronger laws over the bodies

a case as this one while stomp provide and that it on to patients and donors. It is all over someone else's it is to patients and donors. It is anyone else. Now we find that the womb has become public make sure that embryos used make sure that embryos used the womb has become public make sure that embryos used for research are treated with property again, at the centre of had a termination? The only dilemmas to the state.

one's family (or when one abortion She was warned that ments of philosophy have started it) by birth control and | the womb could not carry so | failed to resolve these 2,000 abortion was about all that one could demand; and what the hell did it have to do with anyone else? Now we find that

logical questions. When does life begin? Whose life is it

anyway? Who defines fartility, the body, or how we manipu-late it with drugs? Is the meno-

pause an impassable barrier for our power to reproduce? How do we define the term "mother" when it may be

practically possible to harvest eggs from the wombs of enti-ties that were never actually

The old slogans never envisaged such dilemmas. To be honest, those who shouted them, in their confident teens

baby and has to go abroad to

get the treatment to do so. To most people it is common sense that women of this age

should not bear a child, be-cause we believe that mothers

born?

ing reproductive rights. "Not the Church, not the State, should be around long enough

women shall decide their to see their offspring into

Pause, think again

Who should be in charge of a woman's of information about donors so resolve vast moral and onto-

that children born from fertil-

ity treatments as a result of a

out about their genetic his-tory. In addition, last year the

HFEA did what science almost never does, what it did not do in 1978 when the world's first "test-tube" baby was born: stop for a moment to consider

the consequences. It con-ducted a mammoth consulta-

tion on what came to be known as the "yuck" factor and found that most people

were intellectually ill-equipped to cope with the tech-nological developments that

await us. In effect, it delivered

a verdict on its own powers: that they were not strong enough. That experts were needed to guide us through the

ethical forest that lay in wait.

This settles uncomfortably on the minds of those who 25

years ago marched through

the streets of London demand-

abortion on demand; a woman's right to choose."

lonated sperm or egg can find

avoid a multiple pregnancy, conceived octuplets, refused to have a selective abortion and that the natural-born right of fate," we chanted. "Free adulthood.

every woman to have a baby

surprisingly limited. It has to license and monitor clinics.

fertility? Should the present authority

aborted? Linda Grant wants to see

an that she could not use one of her late husband's world to have set up a regula-

grounds that he was no longer in this world to give his written permission. Having delivered what most people considered a callous and pedantic example of the namny state

ered what most people considered a callous and pedantic judgment, the HFEA had nothing at all to say on the subject of Mandy Allwood, who, despite her many prices of the namy state poking its nose into activities that really are none of its business. The former view is likely

of Mandy Allwood, who, despite her unconventional cirto be held by those who believe

cumstances, had received fer that the feckless, unmarried

tility treatment, ignored her poor should be given no help to

doctor's advice on how to start families they cannot

The authority had, it said, no by any means is enshrined

remit to address fartility treat- deep in biological urges, not

ment administered by drugs. some kind of legal charter is there, then, something the dreamed up in Whitehall.

matter with its remit? What do The HFEA's current brief is

a case as this one while stomp provide advice and informa-

HIS week the existence for five years, and it Human Fertilisation is time to ask if it is doing any and Embryology Authority told a womshould be strengthened. Brit-

world to have set up a regula-tory body to address the com-plex issues raised by techno-logical intervention into

be strengthened — or should it be

more thought before more action

thority told a wom-

frozen sperm to give birth to a posthumous child on the

grounds that he was no longer

finally lost all the foetuses.

we have such a set-up for if it cannot adjudicate in as messy

A SEA

Composer lit by northern light

who has died aged 74. is a biological entity. "It begins from a mystery, from he said. "It grows like a tree from a seed. The germ posgrowth. Many people think that the growing power of the initial motive is its most important feature. However, the gist of the matter is the extent of its growth. This is the most important concern in creating a large form

Kokkonen was Finland's most distinguished composer since Sibelius and shared with his countryman a genius for the organic development, from the simplest successions of intervals, of large and im-posing musical structures.

Kokkonen was a friend of the greatest Finnish architect of the day, Alvar Aalto, who designed the composer's house in Järvenpää. just as Lars Sonck had done for Sibelius in the same town half a century before. This fusion of the complex with the straightforward, expressed in a language whose emotive force could be readily appreciated by audiences unversed in con-temporary trends, achieved for Kokkonen's music international renown with critics and public alike. This success was all the more remarkable since Kokkonen's music, if not as extreme in means as much that was being written at the time in Central Europe and in the United States, was He was one of the first com-posers in Finland to adopt (1957), the Symphonic 12 string players Prominent

COMPOSITION, elements of Schoenberg's 12. Sketches (1968) and a Cello among his purely chamber according to the note method of composition, Concerto (1969). although he never entirely abandoned tonality. Nor did alist in the way that his pupil Paavo Heininen would do. Kokkonen's rigorous self-

criticism kept his output relatively small, amounting to some 50 compositions. These are of consistently high quality, covering the standard forms from opera to song, symphony to sonata. Many pieces from his mature period, which ran from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s (corresponding to the gesta-tion period of his only opera, The Last Temptations), have established themselves in the repertoire. Particularly prominent are his orchestral works, including four sym-phonies remarkable for their total avoidance of Sibelian influence. From the outset, Kokkonen evolved a very individual variant of the symphony as a genre, with one or two fast movements framed by a pair of reflective, slowerpaced spans. After the pre-miere in 1961 of his First Symphony, completed the previous year, Kokkonen was hailed as "a new comet in the Finnish musical sky". The hope was expressed that the "comet" would become a "fixed star", a sentiment fulfilled at least in part later that

year with the receipt of a prize from the Wihuri Foun-

dation (a second followed in 1973) and by the award of the

Nordic Council's prestigious music prize in 1968 for his Third Symphony (1967). Other

But the work that attracted

the greatest critical and popular acclaim was his opera The Last Temptations, which stands as the most complete summation of Kokkonen's art. Based on events in the life of the early 19th-century revivalist demagogue Paavo constructed on symphonic internal cohesion rare in works for the theatre. The treatment of the plot — from a play by the composer's cousin, Lauri - reinforced with the main action related in flashback from Ruotsalain National Opera toured the work with tremendous success in Europe and North America, before recording it ences roar with approval was not the music's subtlety or impact, especially Paavo's great hymn which achieves a

OONAS Kokkonen body of instrumental music, from pleces for piano . performer in the 1950s as the Sonating of 1953. larger-scale works such (1961-2) and the surrogate harpsichord concerto... Durch einen Spiegel.

("...through a glass darkly..." 1976-7), which

quartets (1958-9; 1964-6; 1976) the last of which - like the Sonata for cello and piano of thematic material from The Last Temptations.
Kokkonen's vocal music,

aside from the opera, is scored primarily for chorus, the most important being the unaccompanied setting of the Mass (Missa a cappella, 1963), a Latin motet, Laudatio Domini (1966), and a 1981 choral-and-orchestral Requiem in memory of his second wife, Maija, which, as in Faure's Requiem, dispenses with the apocalyptic Dies Irae humanistic vision. Kokkon-en's principal solo vocal work is his early song cycle, The Hades of the Birds (1958-9).

Kokkonen was born in lie

almi in Central Finland. He

studied at the Sibelius Acad

emy in Helsinki from 1940 with Palmgren and Hanni kainen, amone others, though terrupted by military service (he attained the rank of sergeant) during the "Contim tion War" with the Sovie Union in 1941. Resuming his awarded a diploma in piano in 1949 and was engage the Academy as a lecturer the following year, becoming professor of composition from 1959-63. Two of his pupils who have achieved international recognition in symphonic and operatic repertoire are Aulis Sallinen and Paavo Heininen. He also undertook impor-

achieved prominence as a



Joonas Kokkonen . . . Finland's most distinguished composer since Sibelius Suze MAEDER

sinki University in 1948. Probably his most important the identification, supported by the composer's widow Aino, of the organ piece Surusoitto (Funeral Music, 1931) as

plete, and subsequently sup-pressed, Eighth Symphony. In Sibelius, hinted at a final symphony not yet in complete musical dictionaries list this

in fact, like the Fourth Quartet. never committed to paper.

ity, was fearless.

Naturally unostentatious

and, while deeply bereft,

daughter. He leaves many friends who will be glad to

know he made a good end and

that his long life was literally

Kenneth Muir, English scholar,

rounded with a sleep.

Inga-Stina Ewbenk

Dennis L Bird writes: For two years, I was adjutant to Wing (obituary September 16) when he was station commander at RAF Butzweilerhof in Coiogne. On Sunday, August 13 1961, he and I were in remote rural Germany on a car rally in his big Armstrong-Siddeley. Suddenly over the radio came the news that the East Germans had started building the Berlin Wall and were stopping all travellers leaving. Was this, perhaps, the prelude to a take-over of all Germany by the Russians? On that momentous day, no one knew. "We'll finish the rally first," said my CO in the true spirit of Francis Drake.

Among his many interests were Bentley cars (it was through the vintage Bentley club that he met his second wife), scuba-diving and chin-chilla breeding. His German secretary spent a good deal of rable character: urbane charming, very like Cecil Parker, the film actor. There

wrong (obituary September 1). The Hola massacre occurred in Kenya in a Mau Mau deten-tion camp, not in Malawi.

Gareth Bevan writes: Paul Boateng must have very vague memories of Mission: not watching the re-runs on Channel 4. or he would know Morris (obituary September 2 played was Barney Collier not Harry Collier

Roger Clements writes: Your obituary of Professor did not mention his great personal kindness. As one of his minor protegés at Man chester University, I received nothing but immense kind ness, help and courtesy from I've not forgotten it. He was

Frida Knight

Music in a good cause

remembered being shocked into "juvenile political aware shirts. Her schooling had been cut short at 14 when she became ill with Graves' disease, a rare heart condition. She went to Sicily for part of De Gaulle in a cigarette her recovery and from there travelled north through Italy. Switzerland and Germany where later, in Frankfurt studying music, she wit-nessed the clashes between Nazis and Communists.

and violin from the age of eight — the violin from a niece of Joschim — and later graduated from the Royal College of Music. But her mother, the first student at Newnham to receive a first class degree, introduced her nearer home in Cambridge, which set her on her course in life, both socially

and politically.

She worked first in Manhester, organising music for the unemployed, producing plays, operas and concerts then as extension lecturer in music and theatre in Hull There she started a Spanish relief committee and joined the Communist Party. In May 1937, she drove an ambulance from London to Murcia in and translated articles for the Republican press office, visited the front and spoke on

RIDA KNIGHT, who has died aged 85, was a musician, biographer with Spanish refugees in rance and she returned to Paris at the end of that year. In June 1940, she was caught imprisoned in Besanon for more than a year until she escaped via Marseille. She brought back a message for year with the Free French information department. Her escape was the subject

of her first book, an exciting story, told with characteristic modesty. Frida was at her best when writing about other people, notably in stud-ies of those 18th-century radicals William Frend and Thomas Walker, and in her affectionate life of that other radical, Beethoven, a book that continually sends one back to the music. Her unpublished memoirs barely men tion the famous people she knew, for fear, she said, of name-dropping. Indeed, she could have dropped plenty in her excellent account of Cambridge music from the Middle ges to modern times. In all, including translations, she published 10 books, as well as

T WAS RARE to find her without company. All the Chinese and Russians who visited Cambridge seemed to find their way to her house until latterly, the front door was always kept open. She loved people even more than national radio.

She returned to England as a fund-raiser for Basque refugee children, organising meetings and concerts for expressing her sympathies in the national radio.

Was always kept open. She in 1949 and microbiologist B C J G Knight, later professor in Britain's first department of microbiology at Reading University. Frida spoke fondly of October 2, 1996 She returned to England as causes, but loved causes be a fund-raiser for Basque cause she loved people. Nor refugee children, organising could she live without



Frida Knight . . . expressing her sympathies in actions

ctions. She was active in innumerable good works, most ardently in the peace movement. A visit to Cuba in 1992 set her upon yet another cause: the provision of medical supplies to the island.

Despite recent events, she retained the hope that had inspired socialists in the 1930s Socialism was the only answer and she would quote in consolation her beloved William Morris: "Courage! For things wonderful, un-hoped for, giorious, have happened even in the short time

while I have been alive."
In 1944 she married the

her debt to her parents and describe it as privileged was reader in French at Cambridge and dean of Trinity College.

I asked Frida once for which of her achievement remembered. She replied unhesitatingly: "By my children and grandchildren." Through ber four children - her husband predeceased her - and in the hearts of people in many countries, she lives on.

Timothy Rogers

Frideswide Frances Emma Knight, musician and socialist

Kenneth Muir

A Shakespearean devotion

me his newly published Lone de Vega — a gesture typical of a man who until the end retained his faculties, his productivity and his belief in

one of his generation's most eminent Shakespeare scholars. Kenneth Muir once told a close friend that what he most would have liked to be was a dramatist. There was nothing manque about his academic career, which continued into an uncommonly active retirethe University of Liverpool. But the potential dramatist was there, and was possibly what united into one person the dramatists of the Spanish Golden Age; the editor of eare plays and Wyatt ocems; the author, the supert

ecturer and the politician. Born in south London, son of a doctor who died when he was seven. Muir was edu cated at Epsom College and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he read English and acted in John Masefield's private theatre at Boar's Hill. His tureship at York's St John's College of Education, not well suited to a poet and radical. He was sacked three times and reinstated on the insis-

tence of the then Archbishop of York, William Temple. In 1937, newly married to Mary Ewen and co-author of The Voyage to Illyria, a pio-neering study of Shakespeare as a poetic dramatist, Muir moved to an English literature lectureship at Leeds University. There he taught, edited, directed and acted Shakespeare; the memory still lingers of a King Lear with G Wilson Knight as Lear

HE DAY before he died, | and Kenneth Muir as Glou- (which he edited) on the bus at 89, Kenneth Muir sent | cester. He wrote learnedly for | up Brownlow Hill and polishthe Proceedings of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, and contributed hundreds of articles to Leeds Weekly Citizen under a vast

> chair of the Leeds Fabian Society and a Labour council lor - a radical commitment that continued in Birkenhead. The move to Mersey publication of his New Arden edition of Macbeth, followed the next year by King Lear.

Kenneth Muir held Liver-pool University's King Alfred Chair of English Literature for 23 years, and marked his retirement in 1974 by appearing as Prospero in a young colleague's production of The Tempest. He had also created by example, a departmental ethos in which devotion to scholarship was taken for granted. Those of us who began our careers under his aegis lived in a quality cul-ture, long before that term never learned to make use of time the way he did, reading proofs of Shakespeare Survey

born May 5, 1907; died Septem ber 30, 1996

Kenneth Muir . . . quietly proud of his achievement

Birthdays

Prof Richard Batchelor, immunologist, 65; Lord (Peter) Blaker, former Con-servative minister, 64; Jackle Collins, author, 59; Sir Terence Conran, Habitat de up Brownlow Hill and polishing off staff meetings in 10 signer, 65; Basil D'Oliveira, cricketer, 65; Lesley Glais-ter, novelist, 40; Eddie As an author, Muir ranged widely. His critical work was informed by a now unfashion-Harry Greenway, Conserva-tive MP, 62; Charlton Hesend retained his faculties, his productivity and his belief in number of pseudonyms — able liberal humanism which hope to make this books accessible outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which all separately invited to the outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which have been productivity and his belief in once finding five of his aliases all separately invited to the outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which have been productivity and his belief in once finding five of his aliases all separately invited to the outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which have been productivity and his belief in once finding five of his aliases all separately invited to the outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which have been productivity and his belief in once finding five of his aliases all separately invited to the outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which have been productivity and his belief in once finding five of his aliases all separately invited to the outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which have been productivity and his belief in once finding five of his aliases all separately invited to the outside specialist circles. His liberal humanism which have been productivity and his belief in once finding five of his aliases aliases aliase aliases aliase aliases aliase alia Richard Martin, chairman, Brewers' Society, 64; Tony e was quietly proud of his Meo, snooker champion, 37; achievement and not afraid to Sir Hector Monro, Conservative MP, former government minister, 74: Yvonne Murray, athlete, 32: Gavin show his enjoyment of the honours it brought: the honorary degree from the Univer-sity of Dijon, the fellowship of Pritchard-Gordon, racethe British Academy, the presidency of the Internahorse trainer, 51; Giles Radice, Labour MP, 60; Anneka Rice, television pre-senter, 38: John Rutherford, tional Shakespeare Associa-tion. Kenneth Muir was reti-cent about personal relations rugby footballer, 41; Susai Sarandon, actress, 50; Jim Sillars, former Scottish faced stoically the death from leukaemia first of Mary his National MP, 59; Sir James wife, then of Katherine his Spicer, Conservative MP, 71; Ann Widdecombe MP, minister of state, Home Office, 49.

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Death Notices

NATTHEWS - PETER ASH Prof Em Dept. of Electronic Engineering, Unit of Laeds, Gled on 22nd June, audiden urexpectedly while working in Au-Husband of Catriona, father of Ale Benjamin and brother of Dorothy. Me Service at Emmanusci Church, Univer Leeds on 24th October at 1,10.

PARKER, TONY. On October 3rd. Tony Parker, author and Interviewer, died at Westleton, Suttolk, "O little too short for Irlends who share."

Marriages

Jackdaw



Virtuous times

STATE Office for the Increase in Birth Rate, Berlin Dear Sir, As many men have died during the war, it is the responsibility of the living to care for the women and the girls in order to have a steady birth rate. You are thought to be very fit and we ask you kindly to accept this honourable duty. Because of this. your wife will not have the right to divorce you but will have to accept it as a necessary consequence of war. You are detailed to the 12th nine women and 17 girls. Should you feel unfit for this

of a good replacement together with a certificate of incapacity signed by three doctors. Should you be able to take over another district too. you will become a breeding officer and also receive a breeding remuneration; you will also receive the birth medal first class with red ribbon. You are further exempted from all taxes and have the right to a pension. We will send you a list of the persons to be visited by you. You should start your fruitful work at once and report the results to this office after nine months. Patriotic greetings. The Personal Branch of the War Ministry. Desperate measures in war. Apparently a copy of a letter found on a German POW in

Sexual Medicine New prizes

BIOLOGY: Anders Baerheim and Hogne Sandvik of the University of Bergen, Norway, for their "tasty and tasteful" report, "Effect of Ale, Garlic Appetite of Leeches" (British

1944. British Journal of

Medical Journal, vol 309). Medictne: James Johnstone of R J Reynolds. Joseph Taddeo of US Tobacco, Andrew Tisch of Lorillard, William Campbell of William Morris and the late Thomes E Sandle fur Jr. chairman of Brown and Williamson Tobacco, "for their unshakable discovery, as testified to the US Congress", that nicotine is not addictive. Peace: Jacques Chirac, President of France. for commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bombing o Hiroshima with atomic tests in the Pacific. Public Health: Ellen Kleist of Nuuk, Greenland, and Harold Moi of Oslo. Norway, for their "cautionary" medical report "Transmission of Gonorrhoea Through an Inflatable Doll" (Genitourinary Medicine. vol 69, no 4). Chemistry: George Goble of Purdee University, for his "blistering world record time for igniting a barbecue grill" — three seconds, using charcoal and liquid oxygen. Literature: The editors of the journal The Social Text, for eagerly pubcould not understand, that the

author said was meaningles and which claimed that reality did not exist. (The paper, was a hoax, was "Transgress-ing the Boundaries: Towards a Transformative Hermeneutics of Quantum Gravity", by Alun Sokel, Social text, Spring/Summer 1996). Economics: Robert J Genco of the University of Buffalo, for his discovery that GLAM-BANG "Retro Sevenfinancial strain is a risk indicator for destructive Results of the annual Ig Nobel

prizes for those achieven in science that "cannot or thould not be reproduced "there announced on the 3rd of October at Harvard University. Apparently, a group of genu Nobel laureates have been lined up to present the awards prior to performing as insects in the world premiere of a mini-opera starring two me sopranos as coclaroaches. New Scientist

Marketeers

CYBERGEN "Techno literate and techno-hungry

CEREBRAL "Pastimes such as reading and internet

BCO-PAGAN "Encompas ing holistic science, the rise of cult religions, alternative medicine, free festivals and eco-anarchy. A-GENDER "The blurring of the gender distinctions reflected in growing androgyny in fashion."

ties style with a post modern sense of irony."
STREET SPORT "The collision of sports, entertainment and street fashion, Nike meets рор ргото." Marketing folk and their

labels. These were developed by the brainbirds behind the new drink Thick Head. They have lecided that British Youth fit into six different categories and according to them, Glam Bangs, Street Sports and A-Genders are most likely to buy *their tipple.* Company

Sluts and tarts

AS FOR Mary Lou Heller, she didn't have any children so there was no point speculating. But Tom said being a slut

100 DO 190

didn't have anything to do with having children; it had to do with men, with sex, with spreading your legs for every Tom, Dick and Harry. The dictionary didn't mention Tom's meaning for the word slut. Our Oxford said alut was a sluttern or slovonly woman. But Tom said untidiness was not the point either. The point was you couldn't trust a slut. A slut. did the dirty deed with



Divided youth . . . Company | course sluts act normal.

anybody who asked her; a slut rolled in the hay with all the boys only she didn't get paid for it. A prostitute was a slut, but a slut was not a pros titute, because a slut wasn't in it for the money. A slut was worse than a prostitute. She was too stupid to make a living at it. Tom said I shouldn' get on good terms with sluts. It was tricky enough that I was a Protestant whose best

friend was a dogon, a mick i.e a Catholic. Of course, he said he had no worry about me in the slut department. I know you'll never be one, he said. You're just like Mother, you're not interested in seg. Still, he told me I had to be careful; I was too sympathetic. I should stay away from girls who had doublebarrelled names like Mary Lou Heller and wore V-neck angora sweaters that smelt of Shalimar, a perfume Mom called whore's lure. Are sluts capable of ordinary living?" I asked. "Do they sometimes eat mashed potatoes instead of french fries and use a Brownie Hawkeye?" "Of

Tom said. "That's how they fool you. But if you could see what they do when everybody goes to sleep," he added, "you would find out that sluts are every bit as disgusting as you thought." An extract from Susan Swan's story Sluts, from Granta's new collection of writing.

Foxed again

TOWN foxes are wreaking havoc at a top bowls club by stealing the jacks during games. The urban foxes, which live around Cheltenham Bowls Club, reguarly sneak out and snatch the yellow jacks as players compete. The club is planning to surround the green with an electric fence to keep them out. Further rising crime figures for the Government to worry over. Country Life

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Friday October 116

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Finance Guardian

Spottiswoode squares up for stormy and personal Monopolies Commission battle with British Gas | Notebook

Regulators take tough line Test of power at business court

Cells Westen Industrial Corresponde

AS industry regulator Clare Spot-tiswoode lashed yesterday after the company propelled itself into its third Monopolies Commision enquiry since privatisation in 1986.

As the two sides squared up

for a six-month inquiry over new price controls for British Gas's TransCo pipeline busi-ness, the Director General of Ofgas attacked the BG board for personalising the decident for personalising the issue and making a habit of rowing with the regulator, referring to the company's stormy rela-tions with her predecessor. Philip Rogerson, BG deputy chairman, claimed that the



The combined

operation will

have assets

in excess of

£410 million

and we will be

competing with

Eurotunnel with

£12 billion. That

is what this is

and Goliath

battle, if you

has shown us

that David can

the tunnel

The enemy is

Lord Sterling

like, but history

about.

company would have to cut between 8,000 and 10,000 of TransCo's 20,000-strong workforce to meet the price cuts. The new charging regime

for TransCo, which is to be demerged from British Gas next spring, would slash £400 million from annual cash flow, he claimed. However, Ms Spottiswoode said the company's decision

to personalise its campaign and to stir up shareholders, the City and the press was counterproductive.
"It seems to me very weird that they believe a huge press campaign will affect what we

cil said it was disappointed by the referral but that there was too much at stake for either too much at stake for entner side to back down. Ian Powe, council director, asked: "Is it in the public interest that 18 million consumers should for million consumers should for tain the system, and job cuts.

The regulator issued service standards expected.

The regulator issued service standards expected.

Ms Spottiswoode . . . attack out to sustem or maintain services and service standards expected.

Ms Spottiswoode said that Office responsible for draw-But British Gas' chairman Richard Giordano said he was confident the MMC would back BG. It was in the inter-ests of customers, amployees and shareholders that unjustified and unworkable proposals were rejected.



for a five-year price control until 2002, with a 20 per cent one-off price reduction in the first year followed by price cuts of 2.5 percentage points below inflation in each of the next four years. Estimates suggest this would cut £28 a year off the average house-hold gas bill from next April.

or the MMC inquiry, expected to have it written by October 14. The 1993 inquiry cost British Gas, which must meet the costs about 5500 000 meet the costs, about £500,000. She also hoped to publish the agreed price control for British Gas Trading activities — pegging price rises at 5 per-He warned, however, that if hold gas bill from next April.

The MMC upheld Ofgas's price proposals there would be a diminished reward for share-

£4 but workers warn of risks as Littlechild gets tough with Grid

PROPOSALS to cut do-mestic electricity bills by £4 a year were unveiled yesterday by industry regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild, amid warnings that his plans for new price controls for the National Grid will cause extensive job-shedding and risk blackouts, writes Celia

With the City divided last night over whether the company. Grid will reject the propos-als and seek a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry, Tony Cooper, the general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association, warned that 800 jobs would go from a workforce already cut by nearly half to 3,400 since privatisation.

Warning that the regulator had not taken safety into consideration, Mr Cooper said: "If there is another storm, or terrorist ac-tivity, Britain would face blackouts." Prof Littlechild said his four-year price con-trol for the Grid, which runs the transmission system in England and Wales, of the next three years.

Customers win | was at the lendent end of ex-The control, effective

from next April, will cut Grid revenues by £1 billion. The Grid had hoped to force Prof Littlechild into greater concessions. In a terse statement, issued through the Stock Exchange, the company said it would respond by the Octo-ber 30 deadline.

Analysts were divided over the likelihood of an MMC inquiry which would follow a rejection of the proposals by the Grid. An inquiry would last six months, running through the election campaign.
Prof Littlechild said be
did not anticipate further negotiations with the

The plans, modified following consultations since publication of his original proposals in August, were a reasonable balance between the interpalance between the interests of customers and
shareholders and provided
a realistic framework
within which the National
Grid Company could plan
future developments, Prof
Littlechid said.
The revised price control,
to operate from April next

to operate from April next year until March 2001, requires a reduction of 20 per cent in the first year followed by a cut of four percentage points below the rate of inflation in each of the next three years.

business court



Edited by Alex Brummer

BRITISH Gas and Clare Spottiswoode at Ofgas have been busting for a high profile punch-up at the Monopolies Commission: so referral was inevitable.

But this is not just the con-

tinuation of a history of rocky relations between two sides constantly at war since priva-tisation in 1986. The referral ls far more significant.

It has put utility regulation into a political melting pot which will bubble away up to and beyond the election. All sides have one eye on a likely Labour victory and the par-ty's firm commitment to shake up the watchdogs. The atmosphere is fevered, but it

will get more so.
With Northern Ireland Electricity already referred and ar-guing over similar issues to BG, and the National Grid possibly on its way, the MMC's responsibility is operous.

So, it is a shame that the Commission's future is also up for grabs as the politicians grapple with what to do about competition policy. The result is that these MMC inquiries are unusually unpredictable

and highly sensitive.
It will not be surprising if Richard Giordano at British Gas chooses to use the MMC to exploit this instability by arguing for wholesale reform of the regulatory system. He can make a good case that Ms Spottiswoode, in a system where the individual regulator has huge discretionary power, has overreached herelf. But it may not wash.

David Jefferies — chairman of both the Grid and Northern Ireland Electricity - would presumably make similar arguments. The issue of asset right to determine them, is fust one link between all three cases.

Ms Spottiswoode and Professor Stephen Littlechild go to the court of appeal armed with consumer-friendly plans to cut prices at unpopular companies headed by unpopuiar people like messrs Giordano and Jefferies.

But can the MMC - whose instincts of self-preservation are as strong as anyone's down a straight-forward adjudication? The betting must be

P&O pruning

AFTER a great deal of prodding, Lord Sterling finally is coming to grips with P&O's difficulties. In a matter of weeks, he has forged a pair of joint ventures—one with Nedlloyd the other with Stena Line — which go some way to clean-ing up the company's balance

made now on the pricing of lin, too.

after initial costs savings are made the objective will be to raise passenger yields. It is a goal it ironically shares with Eurotunnel, which Lord Sterling has inelegantly described as having been "dumped into the ferry market."

Herring corted out some of

Having sorted out some of the more acute difficulties Lord Sterling cannot afford to rest on his laurels. P&O remains a hotchpotch of interests — ranging from house-building to property development — most seeking to eke out profits, but very few that are impressive. Of what is left plainly the best prospect is P&O Cruises, which unlike its British counterpart Cunard, has invested sufficiently well to be a real global com-

petitor.

Lord Sterling may be tempted now to say to his critics "I told you so," and hang onto the tiller until he is forced off. Far more dignified, however, to ball out on a high and let a new management give P&O the direction it so badly lost.

Global sleaze

THE latest Damascene conversion of the World Bank occured this week, with president James Wolfen-sohn calling for a crack-down corruption".

How, though, to turn the impressive-sounding words into concrete action? An influential pressure group on anti-corruption, Transparency International, has given Mr Wolfensohn some useful

First, the Bank should resist the temptation to link anti-corruption legal and political reforms to debt relief or aid. Partly because of the tricky international politics involved, but mostly because externally imposed solutions do not work.

Almost every country in the world already has laws against bribery — the problem is that many people simply ignore them. You cannot legislate for honesty. Instead, the Bank should

encourage coalitions of pri vate and public sector against corruption. In particular, Transparency International advocates "integrity pacts" around bids for contracts the most fertile ground for corruption. The idea is that the body giving out the con-tract and the bidding contractors all agree to a competition free of corruption. Firms are happy not to bribe, Transparency reckons, so long as they know their competitors aren't bribing either.

There is also a danger of seeing corruption as a developing world problem; much of the money which is used to buy off officials in the Third World comes from the coffers of western companies. Chairman Peter Eigen says between 5 and 10 per cent of spending abroad by corporations from the rich North may be accounted for by dubious pay-outs to officials.
Ultimately corruption can

probably only be contained. But even that requires a drang up the company's balance heet.

matic change of culture, and not just in Nigeria and Indo-whatever undertakings are whatever undertakings are

Channel ferry marriage puts minnows in deep water

Lisa Buckingham and Keith Harper report on P&O's deal with Stena

P&O and Stena of their cross-Channel businesses. the market's two largest. It was forecast that dis-cussions taking place be-tween P&O and Britanny Ferries to cut capacity in the western Channel would eventually lead to a fullblown merger controlled by the British shipping com-

"Many of the small operators have been hanging on by the skin of their teeth," said Mark McVicar of Natwest Markets. "I can't see how they will be able to how they will be able to hope that P&O would fail to hope that POO would fail to hope that POO

ROUT of smaller ferry operators was predicted by analysts yesterday after the merger by tunnel, and expects to be able to reduce its yearly costs of £280 million by

more than £75 million.

Although this is expected to include a reduction in capacity, the elimination of bucket fares such as £1 bucket fares such as £1 to withdraw would be political, while Sally Line owns the nort of Ramsgate.

It is understood that secure a deal with Stena, in But this would offer only

their smaller rivals.

Stormy seas . . . smaller operators may be swamped and cheap 'booze cruises' could disappear

Now, analysts suggest, operators such as France's Sea France and Sea Con-tainers, which runs hovercraft on the route, might reconsider whether to con-tinue. This is unlikely to happen overnight. Sea France, for instance,

the loss of about 1,000 jobs, analysts say financial pressures on smaller operators will remain intense.

It is predometed to the port of Ramsgate.

Lord Sterling said he thought it unlikely that regulatory authorities would accept another. would accept another part-ner in the P&O Stena merg-

press for a full merger. Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operator whose decision to slash fares precipitated yesterday's merger

P&O Share price, p, deferred

The company, which is into the hammering out the final fares." details of a £9 billion debt for equity swap with its banks, needs to be able to raise ticket prices if it is to have a hope of servicing its capital.

Only if express capacity on

Only if excess capacity on the Channel disappears, and ferries start to run full, will Eurotunnel be able to charge the "premium" fare it claims its fast service

Likening the merged ferry company to a David competing against the Eurotunnel Goliath, Lord Ster-ling said: "Once the £12 billion Eurotunnel was dumped into the ferry mar-

which case both the large operators would have alysts predicted that Lord meant a reduction in ferry tunnel decided not to pay looked round to mop up Sterling would eventually capacity. into the market by slashing

Shares in P&O shot up by

Within the past few weeks, Lord Sterling has overhauled the property to shipping group's prospects

by merging its container shipping operations with those of Holland's Nedlloyd group and acquiring total control of North Sea Fer-

Both P&O and Stena, whose shares also rose strongly yesterday, said the new venture, which will op-erate 14 ships, should be would have to be rationalisations. This became parieralive".

Olivetti sell-off to raise £520m

Technology Editor

LIVETTI, the troubled Italian technology group, is to raise up to 1,200 billion lire (£520 million) within two years through disposals and the flotation of its Lexikon office equipment business, its new chief execu-tive, Roberto Colaninno, said yesterday . Speaking to financial ana-

lysts in Milan, Mr Colanimo
said he aimed to raise profits, he said: "I have not
soo billion lire by the end of yet established the plan for this year by selling four businesses, including the per-sonal computer division have a positive result." The which has been the main aim was to bring the company a further 20 per cent and the cause of the group's to a position where it was not

Mr Colaninno, who took over as chief executive last buyer for the PC division for month, said more money some years.

flotation of Lexikon on the New York stock exchange towards the end of next year. The group is also planning to sell an 8 per cent stake in the Omnitel mobile phone company, which is regarded as Olivetti's most promising Mr Colaninno ruled out any

would be raised through the

attempt to raise further funds from shareholders who injected 2,257 billion lire into the group earlier this year.

1997, which will be a year of eating up cash in 1997. Olivetti has been seeking a

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Australia 1.9160 France 7.85 Austria 18.32 Germany 2.3270 Belgium 47.84 Greece 369.00 Canada 2.0780 Hong Kong 11.80 Cyprus 0.7085 India 55.80 Cyprus 0.7085 India 55.80
Denmark 6.9575 Ireland 0.9500
Finland 7.07 Israel 4.99

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DBS Management postpones full listing as director resigns the Personal Investment Au-the Personal Investment Au-thority, the watchdog for per-sonal finance sales, to investi-"In relation to other mat-sonal finance sales, to investi-

advisers, shelved plans yes board of the subsidiary DBS terday for a full listing on the | Financial Management. its compliance director terday morning, DBS said a allegations to the PIA," the reasigned at the board's review by its audit committee company added.

sonal finance sales, to investigate a series of allegations

In a statement issued yeshad led the board of directors

ters raised by Mr Stead. BS MANAGEMENT, gate a series of allegations ters raised by in Stead, which the board of DBS does not believe to be material, independent financial tor, Kenneth Stead, against the tor, Kenneth Stead, against the certain operational procecertain operational proce-dures will be reviewed. The board has also referred these

The company, which is currently listed on the Alternative most serious allegation.

The company, which is currently listed on the Alternative most serious allegation.

come the first company to graduate from AIM to a full listing, with the transfer originally scheduled for the end of last month.

Ken Davy, DBS chairman and a director of the PIA board, described the incident as "frustrating", but said the company still intended to

for a network of 2,500 firms which specialise in providing vestors. Its income is generments on the sale of insurance and pension policies.

Around 30 per cent of the

In 1993, DBS was fined £60,000 by the Financial Interfinancial advice to private in- mediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association. ated by deductions from its a City regulator, after one of members' commission payits members was found to have missold a number of company's stock is held by di-rectors and its members, with day, shares in DBS had been

mortgage-linked income plans to elderly investors.

Investment Market, has asked | regarding a compliance issue | shares have soared, peaking | in due course. This does not | Davy holding 20 per cent. Insti- | marked down 56p at 425p.

Apples prove crunch for Asda

ALLAN Leighton, the new chief executive of Asda supermarkets (pictured right at the Roe-hampton store), main-tained the populist style of his predecessor. Archie Norman, yesterday by giving away apples in protest at European Union rules.

Asda's apples campaign follows its high-profile actions against the Net Book Agreement and on vitamin and medicine prices. The company com-plains that EU rules forbid the sale of loose apples less than 55mm (just over two inches) in diameter. It says many English Cox apples are smaller than that but are ideal for children. Mr Leighton said: "If we

cannot sell the apples we'll happily give them away to children." Nearly 14 tonnes of small Cox apples have been delivered to Asda stores. On Saturday the first 1,000 children at each store will be given one free.
PHOTOGRAPH: GAPRY WEASER



PAUL MURPHY meets a remnant of old guard with little good to say for new regimen | Under

The word of a gentleman

T's a joke. The sys-tem's gone to ratshit. Were we not better off lying to each other while looking directly into

each other's eyes?"

The rhetorical question comes from someone qualified to pose it — a Diffysomething male who, in his 30-odd years working in the Square Mile, has moved from the trading coalface to senior corporate finance management. He mourns the personal disci-pline which the physical Stock Exchange dealing floor demanded, and which was swept away with Big Bang. In his time (which has not

yet run out, quite), the man has overseen scores of fat-fee deals which have meant life or death to dozens of stock market-listed companies, employing thousands of people. He has personally supervised the stock market flotation of would have to sit down for a period to work it out. And yet this man would never stand up in public and criticise the London stock market.

It has been and remains his lifeblood. In the City of London, before or after Big Bang. no one speaks out of turn. "It's a shame and it's all a

sham. The public got shafted at Big Bang. Everything was supposed to make it cheaper and safer for the small player, the private investor. But it didn't happen; just the institutions benefited."

This broker/dealer-cum-City-worthy is referring spe-cifically to one of the key reforms which Big Bang brought to the City a decade ago: the abolition of mini-

tually subsidised the individual who fancied a punt on a stock," he says. "For his 15 quid he would get the best in-



10 vears on

could offer. And if it wasn't really economical for the bro ker to talk to this particular client, it didn't matter be cause he would make his money up with the institutions. There was a process of redistribution going on, if you

His words are backed up by statistics, which show that deof the share-owning property-owning democracy, the public is more leery of holding a stock portfolio than ever.

It brings him to his pet gripe — unnecessary costs. "I could witter on about trans-parency and dual capacity buy and sell shares as well as advising their clients what should be bought and sold] and how any sophisticated user of the market knows the system doesn't work [fund stocks, brokers selling the story and market makers one stop shop) but the bureau cracy which we have inher-ited on the back of Big Bang is criminal."

He counts up the regula-tors, the various City watchdogs and market authorities, that his firm, and he himself, are responsible to and he is close to hitting 10 fingers without drawing breath. The regulators want to box

us in like some bit of dangerous machinery, rather than excepting accepting that we are a creative force which heips this country - and many other countries - tick. And the press does not help, geeing the regulators up." The costs come from City

firms having to comply with the ever-expanding City rule-books, the lawyers who swamp every deal, "the joke disclaimers attached to every sentence which defy grammar and defy common sense". He says: "It is dreadful stuff. I cannot explain to you the naïvety of some of the

people I have had to deal with at the Stock Exchange, at the Securities and Futures Authority, and at other "The world you and I live in is very different to the world the authorities live in. I

do not mind the Quotations Department [the Stock Exchange body which super-vises fully-listed deals] because you are dealing on a level, well-trod field. And the Takeover Panel are best of all But is it any coincidence that those two bodies pre-dated Big Bang?

"So much of what the regulators piss about with now was solved internally in the past. There was no gratuitous waste of public money. Cermanagers distrust the system tain behaviour was unaccept-of analysts recommending able, and that was it. Some



Exchange . . . not waving but closing Photograph: Sean Delipse

them on the 23rd floor (of the Stock Exchange tower]. 'A word in your shell-like,' and "Now they are just trying to

make a federal case out of everything that happens, and yet the major scams — they never get hold of them."

For this financier, the market rogues have been always been there and will never be exorcised, and he firmly be-lieves that it is pointless

ing in any case. Big Bang simply crystalised it all."

"We are no better off," he insists. "Things were chang-

starter's orders

HE financial markets look set for their biggest shake-up since the 1966
"Big Bang" after the Stock Exchange yesterday an nounced plans to go ahead with order-driven trading after more than nine months of consultation with brokers across the City.

The decision was taken despite City concern over the details of stamp duty tax ex-emption for dealings in larger trades which has yet to be fi-nalised by the Treasury. An announcement is expected

over the next two weeks. But chief executive Gavin Casey insisted that tax uncer tainties would not affect the running of the system which will usher in the electronic trading in FTSE-100 stocks, electronic bulletin boards. This will replace the current system of trading in which arket makers post prices a which they are prepared to buy or sell shares.

Mr Casey declined to put firm date on the start-up of the system which will match City with share trading systems in most markets around the world and make London much more competi tive. The current market making system will continue to be used for London-traded shares outside the FTSE-100

index. there will be provision for dealers to carry out big "block deals" without being hampered by the immediate obligation to make the trans action public.

The move ends a turbulent period for the Exchange which earlier this year saw the dismissal of chief executive Michael Lawrence.

Financial services

MORE jobs are set to join the thousands already lost in finan-cial services as life assurers, insurance companies and building societies struggle to stay profitable, a survey shows today. During the past three months, employment across the financial-services industry has dropped at its fastest rate since December. Only securities traders, fund managers and finance houses took on staff during the third quarter of 1996, and mployment generally is expected to fall more slowly during

shows that optimism among financial services firms rose sharply for the third quarter running. However, the recession-ary effects continue to linger, with business — although increasing - still below normal.

from a low base . . . but the bounce-back in profits is becoming firmly established as firms continue to control costs by cutting jobs." — Dan Atkinson

BT pre-empts Oftel action

OFFEL yesterday withdrew the threat of formal action against British Telecom after the group modified proposed prices for ... arket with guide

CORNER PLEASURE AND AND THE RESERVE

MORE than 3,000 jobs could be created at a £150 million leisure and sports complex in Bolton, Lancashire. The Middlebrook Development at Horwich will include a 25,000-seat stadium for Bolton Wanderers FC, a sports village complex and retail and leisure parks. — Martyn Halsall

Should he take Mr Levine's job, Mr Calley has to restore morale at a studio buffeted by an exodus of executives and box office flops, such as The Cable Guy, for which Jim Carrey received \$20 million (£13.3 million). — Mark Tran in New York

Clarke frets away at the 'group hug'

Richard Thomas in Washington is worried about the Chancellor

NE finance minister attending the endless the G7, G10. World Bank and IMF this week barked at his officials: "Why can't I have those Kenneth Clarke gets?" When the chastised advi-

delegation's offices for some hints, a mandarin explained: 'We'd be happy to help, but the thing is he never reads his This is quintessential

Clarke - a broad-brush operneeds to get his way, and nothing more. Ask about IMF structural adjustment programmes and his eyes begin But the Chancellor loves ca-

joling others to his point of hero of the non-governmental organisations after pushing through the third-world debt

Unfortunately, helping the world's poor does not win brownie points with his Tory about tax and monetary often about the Tory press. union to the BBC's Today proabout tax and monetary

gramme, ruining his plans to hear the Charlie Byrd trio at his favourite Washington jazz

club, Blues Alley. Still, there has been a dif-ferent kind of therapy for Mr Clarke. Holding a nation's purse strings is a lonely task. Spending ministers hate you for refusing to fund their pet scheme; everyone else hates you for not cutting taxes more. So when the West's finance ministers get together, it is in part a mutual affirma-tion session, a group hug for fiscal consolidators. But even as he enjoys a few

drinks on the embassy terrace, there are a couple of warning signs from the Chan-=IRST, it is an old truth

that when politicians start to see their international work as more impor-tant than domestic politics, the game will soon be up. Mr Clarke is not there yet, but he already sees a contrast between the potential for effecting change on a global scale and the pettiness of British

Even more disturbing is the Chancellor's constant fretting wing commentators, who think his pro-European cre-dentials and refusal to dole out tax cuts will ensure victory for Tony Blair. When a thick-skinned Tory Chancel-Clarke has been forced to give thick-skinned Tory Chancel-dead-of-night interviews lor complains so loudly and

Virgin seeks to build air network in Africa

Financial staff

PICHARD Branson wants to forge a low-cost panwith his new Virgin airline route to South Africa.

Speaking after the maugu-ral flight of Virgin Atlantic's service between London and Johannesburg, he said he now wanted to buy Sun Air. the South African stateowned airline, and saw it as the base for a continent-wide network on the model of his new Virgin Express short-haul airline in Europe.

Mr Branson said he was interested in Sun Air if the South African government's plans to privatise the airline went ahead in March. "It depends what the price is but res, we would like to look at buying Sun Air," he told a news conference. "We get on well with the people who run it . . . and I think it can be de-

veloped as a force in Africa."

Last month Virgin announced a new code-sharing pact with Sun Air, which currently flies between Johan-nesburg. Durban and Cape Town using a fleet of two Boeing 727s and five McDonnell Douglas DC9s.

A spokesman said that Virgin would be speaking to South Africa's Transport Minister, Mac Maharaj, in more detail about the plan. Virgin believes Sun Air currently makes a profit of about £4 million a year.

Littlewoods 'not to float'

AMES Ross, the new Chairman of the Littlewoods retail and betting group, yesterday dis-missed speculation that the family-owned business was heading for the stock market. Announcing substantially

broke new ground by publishing half-year results for the first time, Mr Ross said: "We are trying to market the company to all our stakeholders, not just shareholders. This is not in preparation for becom-ing a quoted company. Flota-

tion is not on the agenda indefinitely."

Last year the dispersed Moores family shareholders rejected bid approaches and set up a new shareholder council. Mr Ross replaced Leonard van Geest,
Just four months into the

job, Mr Ross claimed Littlewoods had enormous potential which had not been

realised in the recent past.
"It has underperformed for the best part of a decade." he said. "But the group has some strong brand names and we are taking radical action to

group's businesses might be sold or merged as the result of a strategic review.

Yesterday's figures show some improvement in retail sales and a recovery in profits at the pools operation despite turnover continuing to be hit by the National Lottery. Mr Ross said the new Index Extra home shopping operation had

been extremely successful.
The result was higher operating profits for the half-year to June, up from £6 million to £14 million, but an additional exceptional profit last year He warned that some of the £12.5 million.

Clothing retailers counter sweatshop claims

WO prominent clothing retailers yesterday hit back at claims of sweatshop conditions in their British factories by detailing checks they make to ensure

fair practice. C&A said it had called its inspectors in to two suppliers in Birmingham, and had warned them about safety risks such as locked fire doors and overcrowded factories.

less than £2 an bour. Marks & Spencer, ain's biggest clothing chain, said it was "confident but not complacent' dent but not complacent" from campaigners such as that its suppliers met high Oxfam and Christian Aid to

It rejected claims that

standards. But the com- take responsibility for pany is reviewing the code of conduct suppliers are required to sign. Peter Booth, national tex-

tiles officer for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said it was a mistake to focus solely on dereloping countries when dealing with sweatshop conditions.

"We have always said it is a worldwide problem, and that applies even to child labour. The need for codes of conduct, with independent monitoring, is as great in the UK as it is in the Philippines or Sri

Lanka." he said. Retallers have come

under increasing pressure

working conditions in Third World factories. A C&A spokesman said the company had set up a new code of conduct in May and had established an au-

diting operation. "We want to improve conditions in factories sub-contractors as well a our main suppliers, and fo everybody in the factory C&A products," he said. He called on government

agencies to help enforcement, saying: "We can't be the judge, jury and police. We need local authorities and the health and safety conditions are satisfac-

set to axe more jobs

the next three months.

The survey, by the CBI and accountants Coopers & Lybrand,

Sudhir Junankar, of the CBI, said: "This recovery seems to be

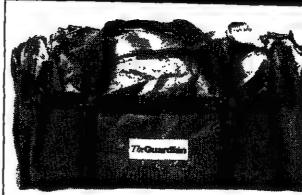
is this is resected after the group modules proposed prices for 1SDN2, its high speed digital service for residential customers and small businesses. Oftel's director general, Don Cruickshan said the new prices removed anti-competitive elements and included worthwhile price cuts. — Nicholas Bannisser

3,000 jobs at Bolton's leisure

Sony turns to veteran

VETERAN Hollywood executive Jim Calley yesterday emerged as the great white hope for Sony's troubled film studio, which is trying to replace Alan Levine who resigned as president. The Japanese conglomerate is negotiating with Mr Calley, president of MGM's United Artists unit, for a "senior position".

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Review of the co

Bounty pays out on £1m outlay

RANKIE DETTORI, so often the hero, was nearly the villain in yesterday's Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket, although all ended well as he snatched a thrilling victory on the favourite Bahamian

Bounty.
With two furlongs to run Detiori's mount was on the rails all dressed up with no-where to go, but miraculously a gap appeared at just the right time.

Bahamian Bounty responded immediately and showed an impressive turn of foot, although the head mariout amough the head mar-gin over Muchea, with In Command a length away third, may not read like a po-tential Classic winning

For once, however, the bookmakers could have erred at Deauville and it is probably on the side of generosity and safe to say that he is more on the side of generosity and the 25-1 being offered by Coral for the 2,000 Guineas looks reasonable value.

We should know more about that after the Dewhurst Stakes in two weeks' time if David Loder, the trainer, gets

Maktoum Al Maktoum, morning work-out. He was who purchased the colt from much brighter than at the who purchased the colt from the previous owners, the Lucayan Stud, a couple of days ago for £1 million, will no doubt have the final say about the Dewhurst, but another race for the colt would certainly help to establish his true merit

true merit.

Dettori thinks a lot of him:
"Two furlongs out I thought "Two furlongs out I thought I'd made a mess and was very worried. But this horse has a high cruising speed and a super kick so he got me out of trouble. The only thing was he idled when he hit the front."

Bahamian Bounty is a stamina into play and might stop some of the others."

The ground at Longchamp is soft at the moment, although conditions have dried out a little. However, it looks as if there will be plenty of rain about this weekend on both sides of the Channel.

As utall as Classic Cliche.

Bahamian Bounty is a strong, handsome colt by champion sprinter Cadeaux Genereux, whose progeny tend to stay better than he did, and his form is not far behind the best.

He beat Zamindar and Pas de Reponse in the Prix Morny than a length superior to In Command, who was three and a half lengths behind the Guineas favourite Bahhare in the Champagne Stakes at

Doncaster.

Dettori is, of course, the man of the moment and his his way.

"I'd like him to run in the Dewhurst," said Loder. "I think seven furlongs will suit him more than six. He's had a break and is a fresh horse."

man of the moment and his ride in Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was yesterday confirmed as the Ascot Gold Cup winner Classic Cliche, who pleased connections in a

Dettori to ride in Hong Kong

FRANKIE DETTORI has been offered a contract to ride in Hong Kong this winter. Four years ago his application to ride there was turned down soon after he received a police caution for possession of cocaine. "Final arrangements have still to be made but of the competes in a second control of the denial of his 1992 application. "They never gave a reason why they turned me taken. They didn't have to," he said. "I was only 21 when that happened and very young. I had rather lost my way at the time."

Dettori is set for a busy winter. He competes in a

for possession of cocaine.

'Final arrangements have still to be made, but of course I'm delighted at the prospect and very proud that they have asked me to go," said Dettori.

He bears no grudge over lost my way at the time."

Dettori is set for a busy winter. He competes in a jockeys' tournament in Japan in November prior to his stint in Hong Kong then will make riding trips to South Africa and Australia.

weekend and will run in the Arc provided there is no adverse reaction to his work," said Simon Crisford, Godol-phin's racing manager.

"He's never raced on soft ground, but we wouldn't be worried by good to soft. At least that would bring his stamina into play and might stop some of the others."

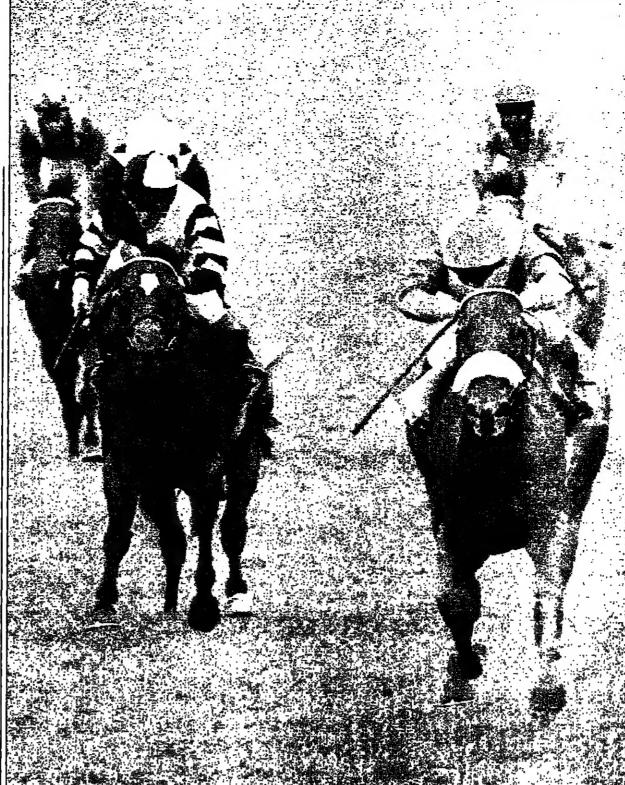
As well as Classic Cliche, Sheikh Mohammed is likely to be represented by Tamure, who will now be ridden by Freddie Head, and the André Fabre-trained Swain, the

mount of Thierry Jarnet.
Asked which of the three he preferred, he commented: "If he'd had a clear run I would have gone with Classic Cli-che, but now I have to think that Swain is the one."

Classic Cliche is a top-priced 9-1 with Coral, who make Swain 5-1 second best behind Helissio, the 11-4 favourite.

Olivier Peslier partnered Helissio in a gallop at Chan-tilly yesterday and was pleased with the way he went. He says the colt, who boiled over when beaten for the first time in the French Derby, is much more relayed now much more relaxed now.

Yeast gave an Arc boost to Shaamit when ploughing virtually a lone furrow down the middle to win the Joel Stakes. "He worked over a mile with Shaamit and Missile last Saturday and finished third," explained Willie Haggas, his trainer. Missile is now 6-1 favourite for tomorrow's Cambridgeshire and Shaamit



هر امن الاس

Grape looks form pick

Ron Cox

RAPESHOT, one of 21 two-year-olds left in next month's Dewhurst Stakes at the latest forfeit stage, can book his ticket for the major juvenile test with victory in today's Somerville Tattersall Stakes at Newmarket.

Both races are run over seven furlongs, a distance which looks the minimum requirement for Grapeshot, who was beaten for finishing speed when third behind Pu-tra and Sahm in the Champagne Stakes at Goodwood.

Moved up a place on the disqualification of Sahm, Luca

Cumani's colt looks the form choice here both on his Goodwood run and a previous de-feat of the useful Bahamian feat of the useful Bahamian Bounty over the July Course.

Falak, who made all the running to upset the odds laid on Captain Collins at Kempton, had his claims boosted by the prominent showing of third-placed Mukaddar at Newmarket on Tuesday.

He looks sure to on well and

He looks sure to go well and there is plenty of improve-ment in last week's easy Goodwood winner Bachelors Pad. But Grapeshot (3.40) is the one to beat.

The Dewhurst acceptors provide a strong pointer to the chance of Wind Cheetah (1.20) at Lingfield. Michael Stoute's well-regarded colt is still in the Group One feature, and although he could only finish sixth at York on his debut, he should be able to get off the mark in this maiden company.

• Willie Carson has been

released from hospital less than a formight after his frightening accident at New-bury where he was kicked by his intended mount Meshhed. He was only transferred from the intensive care unit last Saturday, having been treated for injuries to his liver and ribs plus

Newmarket with guide to recent form

4.15 Oops Pettle

2.00 MOX SPARK PLUGS FILLIEF RATED STAKES HANDICAP OF ER, DES 46541 BARSY BARE (12) (D) J Cultur 3-8-7 113-404 DISPRED FEATURE (23) (D) M Stoup 2-8-5 (2020) TROPICAL DANCE (23) (D) Mrs J Cocil 5-8-3

1005: Denter's Clory 2 & 4 W Reburts SD-1 (R Respon) 12 year

Buttings 7-2 Defined Feature, 4-1 Prends Ce, 5-1 Galina, 8-1 Kind Of Light, 8-1 Shenghel Gri, Tropic Dance, 8-1 Bajun Rose, 12-1 Forends, Babny Subs

FORM GORDE - DEPENDED PEATURES Lost place 31 out, reduct from turiong, ren on, 31 4th behind Selburspark Plyer, with PREMOS CA (servis) 32 pears for a TROPICAL DANCE (servis) another hand away The library field up, bympered and evisioned left over 11 oct, never reaser, 11th of 20, 31 bhd Bias into 1 York St. KIND OF LIGHT: Chased leaders, outpoint ballway, slayed on incide last, 19 4th bid Salgasuri

(Lingled St. Fm).
PORENTIA: Hearhery 21 cut. mm on one pace, 28 3rd bird No Monkey Nuis (Haydoox St. Gd).
RAJAN ROZEN Cresped teaders for side until weakened over 11 cm, 12th of 75, 60 behind Countal Bluff, with
BARSY BASE another 31 away 19th (Ayr Sf. Gd-Fm).

2.35 RACING POST GODOLPHIM STARZES 1m 4f \$11,868 121531 103Y TO BY HEART (13) (D) Mass S Hait 5-8-4 21-3223 Minus Music (21) (CD) (MF) H Cool 4-9-0 22-0011 203Y FLOORT (21) (D) B Hrits 3-8-11 21001 203Y FLOORT (21) (D) B Hrits 3-8-11 612010 MERCON ISLAND (20) (D) P Chappie-Hyam 3-6-7

TOP POEM TIPS: Heros Island &, Bony Flight 7 1995: Minds Music 3 & & Pot Eddary 1-2 (R II A Cool) 7 ran Betting: 9-4 Busy Filght, 11-4 Sharal Kabeer, 4-1 Heron bland, 9-2 Key To My Heart, 11-2 Minda Music

Propaga Guider - SNARRAF KARRETIN Crose up, led 40 cut to 2 out, beaten well over 10 cut, 7th of 11, 146 behind Shanton, with HERION SLAND (levels), never nearer. The army the (Databaser Indinator, Gd-Fin), Bussy Parketts layer all, stayed on strongly final 21, beat Kalabo 150, with MERIOS MUSIC (4th better) another 150 dawn 3rd (Donacaster 1red, Gd-Fin), KEY TO SEY MISIATIS Tracked leaders, led over 21 out, ran on strongly, som by 21 from Desort Shot (Ayr 1800) 150.

3.0	5 CHARLES WHILE BOMBARDER BITTER RATED STAKES	HAMDICAP 7f 58,677
301	0-12000 MADLY SHAIP (75) (CD) J Water 5-0-7	# Hills 10
	451006 EDWENGING MARKET (13) J Doniop 4-0-6	K Derley 5
302		Put Eddery 4
303		
304	701412 LAW COMMISSION (20) (CD) D Eleworth 6-9-2	W R Swinders 3*
305		L Defini 9*
306		Reid 2
307	155061 SESONELINAL (15) G Harwood 4-8-12	Ement O'Gornen 12
308		
309	ACCORD MANY BOD WHE DM I S. (SEX) ACC D Index 3-8-10	R Cockrate 8
310	· Alterna Handard Carts (PA O Calcula 7111)	W Right 17
311	ARABA TRACINE DATE OF THE ARABA SHEET	
312	30(12) ROUSHAR (16) (D) 2 Williams 3-8-5	Table 1

no's Lad 8 8 10 C Dayler 10-1 (CA Dayler) 14 rae Bastieg: 7-2 Dos Boelo, 5-1 Emerging Markot, 6-1 Law Commission, 7-1 Seigneurias, Evergisdes, 8-1 Roustan, Macky Searp, 12-1 Sebasdo, 16-1 Responder, Highborn FORMS QUIDES - DOM BOSIC: is touch, deletened to lead over 17 out, senily, bent Commercian Bay 26

TOP FORM TAPE: Don Book S, Emerging Merket 7, Law Co

regardency over 14 cut, obstand winner inside final forloag, min on, 2 2nd to Add propor /s, tag. HEDIBLEL Held up, headway over 31 out, led finel forloog, ran on; bt White Emir 118 (Lingdeld &, Fm). HELADIBLE Cleaned winner, every chance lines 21, ran on, nit 2nd thid Green Perfume (Newhory 1194y, EVENCE ADMINICATION OF THE PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

3.40	SOMERNULE TATTERSALL STAKES 270 colts & golding	s 7f CB,117
	Control of the Park of the Lands F. C.	Reid 4
401	21 BACHELORS PAD (6) W Jaryis 5-8	R inte 7
402	21 FALAK (283 (3) W Hera 5-9	L Dettect 6
403	312 GRAPH(HOT (65) (C) L Comeri 8-9	Pat Eddary 3
404	31152 MAPRIMAL PRESIDENT (35) (D) H Coof 8-9	H Cachrage 8
405	14 JOHNST STACCATO (27) J Eustacs 8-8	K Ballon 2
406	51202 MUNICAL DARCER (11) (D) E Duniop 8-8	K Darley 1
407	9944J Bring All/ARESING (T18) U USSE 0-0	W R Swindson
405	16 SHOCK VALUE (108) (C) M Storte 5-9	
l restar		

Settings 2-1 Gispashot, 11-4 Patels, 11-2 Bachelora Pad. 6-1 Imperal President, 12-1 Shock Value, Musical Dances, Johnny Staccato, 25-1 Rude Awakersng

FORM GUIDE - PALANC state all, can on gamely sinter pressure, begi Captain Collins by head (Kenada CREPERINOTE PROFISER, led 2f out to treaf furiong, no motes, file Seri, placed 2nd of 8, 2f behind Patris, with AMPERIAL PRESIDENT (Invelts) 28 armsy 6th, placed 5th (Goodwood 7t, Gd-Fm). BACKHELORS, PADE Led over 16 out, can on uses, comfortables, won by 352 from Moonshiner (Goodwood 8f, Gd-Fm).

BL PRESIDENT: Latest, chased warner final 31, no impression, 32 2nd to bledasty (Sendown 1m, CEX. TRULUTE had division, bust on approaching finel harlong, & line had Vergles (Royal Ascot Bt, Cd-Fm). SCAL the MCCEX field sp, years 2nd hasheby, challesged livel furiong, ran on, hd 2nd is heares (Lescosies Michael Dausche Hald up, Mari 2011 min 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, 1997, Ti, Fish. JOCKARY STANGARTO: Dinea, and clear rea over 11 cm, ran on Inside lest, 158 4th bad Arcthusa (Kempion S.,

Channel 4

4.15 JAMES LEVELT HANDICAP SYO 19: 21 C7:550 801 80290 Alexandon Macat: (13) Baiding 9-7 802 - 10040 Add artists: (20) CO B Hills 9-4 803 - 1-107 Padement over cover, (sed) (D) J Pearca 9-4 804 - 1-107 Padement (20) L Currant 8-13 506 - 1-107 Padement (20) L Currant 8-13 508 - 1-107 Padement (20) L Currant 8-13

The state interest (27) A Saverage

12-6096 WARRINGON (209) (25) : Beiding 9-11 20:351 OOPS PETTIS (200) (25) Mrs. J Coold 8-10 55:115 MANRINGO (65) (C) G Wings 9-10 44:110 JERRY CUTRONA (55) N Cellaghan 8-9 (20:504 DABNA (60)) Benis 8-4 210222 DABNA (14) J Bethell 7-10

FOP PORM TUPS: Salest Feer 8, Cops Pettie 7, Gold Disc 8 1865: Monifo Lad II D 4 III Robel 11-1 (P C Handows 20 con

Office GLUCOS - SIGLECT FEWN Lad St, led over 11 out, ridden out, won by DARRA: Headway 4 out, rap on well freel loring, just failed, hd 2nd to Peibel County (Apr. 164-Fm).

BOLD DESC: Headway 4 out, rap on well freel loring, just failed, hd 2nd to Peibel County (Ayr 1m2), Ga-Fm).

BOLD DESC: Headway and not clear run over 27 out, no impression, 81 10th of 17 behind Chilon Fox (Doncuster 1m240y, Gd-Fm).

4.50 FIRTHER FLORT HANDICAP I'M OF ELECE

1995: Proting Line 7 8 9 K Felion 13-R (E.J Aiston) 13 ran lettings 2-1 Floating Line, 11-4 Full Throate, 8-2 Califon Star, 6-1 Sharel, Latindi, 10-1 Gold Blade POINT GLYDZ - FLOATERO LESS Chased tenders, led over 3 out until over 11 out, kept on same pace, 5 2nd bid Durham (Ayr 1mSL Ga-Fre), FRAL TERROTILE Held up, setor 11 out, rad on to lead close home, wen by nå from Token Dancer (Hemitro 1603, CdJ. CERLENH STAIR Provincent 71, Issat of 15 behind Tart (Sinadown 1m281y, Gd-Fm). Previously slayed on to Shieb N lard blud Dauphin (Haydock 18th Amel, Fm). SekaRARF, Lad N, 7th of 12, 34) behind dead-lessions Kutar/Ballynakelly, with LALINDI (tarms terrors) iorther Si Issay Sin (Narsbury 1m584), Cd-Feg.

Hexham (N.H.)

	2.15 Paugaran	3.50 Supertop
	2.45 Canonbisbothered	4.25 Trumpet
	3,15 Prince Skyberd	4.55 Robsern
1	E-2584	es Werrior .
1		William William
ī	Golog Firm (Hard in pisces). * Descriat blinin	13
	2.15 PEDISTATION BREWING BUCHAR BETROLE 2to 41 110pts C1,993	AN OPPOINAL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NO
-	2 00/SSI- LATVIAN (854) R Alian 9-10-15	11-4
	4 neors	
	1995: Wiki Rese Of York 4 10 7 B Harding 4-4	
	Betting: 13-8 Alpese Med. 2-1 Latvian, 9-4 Panger	sa, 11–1 Pimeboy
	2.45 PAT WAKELIN AND BRITISH RED CO	COSS MOVICE HURBLE 3m C2,790
	1 P20PPS- CROFTON LAKE (132) J Ohoa CAMONESEBOTHERED L LOSS	8-10-12 B Storey
	2 rames	
	1936: Cherry Pokey 8 11 0 J Calleghan 1-3 (8	l Yfano) 2 rain
	Betting: 2-6 Canonblebotherad, 2-1 Grotos Lake	

3.15 JOHNSEE MARSHALL HANDICAP CHASE St. 110yds CLASS

letting: 4-8 Prince Shyburd. 7-4 ligarin, 6-1 Arthony Bell 3.50 LCL PES LAGER SELUNG HURBLE 3m CS,067 ...i Borke ...ilichsel Breuze ...il Duryte ...carol Cuthhert

[500-68 DARK MEMORITY (200) DL MID 7-10-12
[500-68 DARK MEMORITY (200) DL MID 7-10-12
[500-68 DARK MEMORITY (200) TO Shan 5-10-12
[500-68 DARK MEMORITY (200) TO Shan 6-10-11
[500-68 DARK MEMORITY (200) TO Shan 7-10-12
[500-68 DARK MEMORITY (2 1995: Socrebed Air S 10 9 M A Physeroid 7-2 (J G O'Shee) B ren Seattings 5-4 Supering, 9-2 Trumble, Spring Loaded, 7-1 Little Redwing, 12-1 Top Skipper, Toe Fella, 25-Searck Gebent, Dark Midnight

1995: Trumpet & 11 10 M & Playeraid 3-1 (J G O'Shan) 5 ran leggings 1-2 Trumper, 4-1 Upwell, 5-1 Lawns-O, 25-1 Strokey Track 4.55 JOHN HOOD HAULAGE HOVICE HUNDLE 24 12,314 1 4600-12 YENT AGE RED (8) (7) G Richards 6-11-5 2 300-024 BOSSERA (8) J Dann 5-10-12 3 0070-02 THALLENGS (12) G Morre 6-70-12 4 52300-Ambert HOLLY (237) J Dbon 7-10-7 1936: No corresponding 1969. Bestings 8-4 Robsera, 7-4 Thaleros, 9-4 Vintage Red, 25-1 Amber Holly

5.25 HEXHAMSHIPE STANDARD WE FLAT RACE 20 21,806 C. FASTER BOM (172) R ARAO 5-11-4
34-4 CHEF GALE (20) (RF) JO Sten 4-11-3
0- FARMERS SUBSHOY (170) MISS M Midgan 4-11-3
6-2 SHOULT WARROOM (13) C Thombon 4-11-3
0 GORBAN AN GASTILE (13) Miss Z Groot 6-10-13
LIEDAJANE Mess Z Groot 4-10-12

D Parker N Horrecks (7) Mr T Horrison G Cabill (3) Buttleys 5-4 Sloex Harnor, 7-4 Chief Gale, 8-1 Faster Ron, 12-1 Fantiers Subsecty, 20-1 Green An Castle

Lingfield runners and riders

1.50 Hejat

1,20 DE SUBSTRU PARTIES HAIDER STAKES (DIV I) 510 SI CLAST

SO SALTEMBARDO (40); Bakeing 9-0.

WATERVILLE BOY (10); R Hanson 6WHLD HADEER W Haggas 9-0.

5 WHID OCHETTAH (22) M Storie 9-0.

40 WITH A WILL (21) H Candy 6-0.

5 CHARDO HISS MIN L Jovell 8-9.

60 HABZAAT (227) (87) W Hem 8-9.

50 SELVER SAMDS [29] T McGovern 8-9.

50 WELL DONE (10) M Bell 2-9.

TOP FORM TIPS: What Chestah S, Injured S Bettings 7-4 Wind Chestah. 11-2 Happy, Injazani, 8-1 Billior Ganda, Wild Hadeer, 9-1 Pietro Berriog, 16-1 Wild Hadeer, Waterville Boy, 23-1 Wish A Will

1.50 EXTCHUMS MARREN STAKES 2YO M C3,712 ALENCIPE MAJORS STARES STO OF CA,718
64 DOM SERASTIAN (121) W Hogos 6-0
502 HAMGOVER SQUARE (16) P Homos 8-0
502 LITTLESTONE ROCKET (65) W Mob 6-0
202 LITTLESTONE ROCKET (65) W Mob 6-0
203 COPPERSISSEN (125) P Chepois-Hom 6-9
50 DAYNELIA (10) W Mur 6-9
60 NAMET H TOPPORE MAJORS A HAJAT H Thomson Jones 8-8 2 HEART THINGS (17) W Hegger 8-9 224 MOPALEA (10) C British 8-3 24600 SWIFT REPUBAL (16) M Haynes 8-9 24600 SWIFT REPUBA

TOP FORM TIPS: Hangavar Square 8, Myrmiden 7, Heart Threb &

1995: Anguar 9 O M Roberts 9-4 (A Stewart) 18 rm Bettings 3-1 Myrmdon, 7-2 Hangover Square, 4-1 Hearl Tarob, 9-2 Nopales, 5-1 Hajat, 8-1 Don Sabastian 10-1 Copperbeech. 2.20 ELETCHICLY CLAIMING QUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES 270 of \$2,001 F (2,351)
C Scally 15
G Deffield 11 ±
S Samlers 4
F Hughes 2
III Yebbest 16
J Carcell 5
A Clark 6
A Clark 6
T Sprain 5
Dano O'Nell 9
J Frotune 12+
J Day 16
C Had 16
E R Admes 3
B Desce 16
E R Admes 3
B Desce 16

1925: Ferma S B W Woods 2-1 (S Woods) 16 ran

Bettings 9-2 Petet Dansesse, 8-1 Russen Sable, 7-1 Abdonado, Caspian Morn, Strafa Quest, 8-1 Hever Golf Charger, 70-1 Downy, Commander Jones

...R Hughes 1
...J Carroll 5
...D Service 3
...G Kind 4
...M Rhumer 6
...J D Smith (5) 11
...G Duffield 10
...D R Secale 12
...Limits Dwyer (5) 70P Földi 11PS: Alm Seven B, Shifting Time 7 1998: Norwegian Blue 9 O J Tute 5-4 (A Jarvin) 11 m Bertling: 3-1 Migrey Flyor, 4-1 Box Albandiya, 6-1 Lulut, 8-1 Dorado Besch, 9-1 Alim Seven, 10-1 Alineh Shifting Time, 14-1 Endy Arcangement, Dentires.

3.25 AUTUMA MAIDEN STAKES 1= 67 04,000

25 AUTHER RADOM STAKES 1m 6F 04,000
42054 21MD FLYER (30) A Moore 4-9-7
0-0009 BROCK COURT (25) R Johnson Houghtos 4-9-2
0 EXECUTIVE OFFICER (150) R Hower 3-6-12
HAYLENG-BLY P Hedger 3-0-12
65 PRIVATE PERCHAL (26) Jumie Poukon 3-8-12
1 TORY ENCOME (26) Sirra A King 3-8-12
0 TORY ENCOME (24) Sirra A King 3-8-12
0-5005 ZAFORIM (41) L Montague Hell 3-6-12
4222 REART (3) (85) M Soute 3-6-7
2232 REART (3) (85) M Soute 3-6-7
2233 SHORLEY VERTURE (41) S Woods 3-8-7
50 THOME ARRIVA (26) S Medor 3-8-7
0-5000 VEROMICA FRANCO (7) B Petros 3-8-7 TOP FORM TIPS: Zeforum & Reart 7, Renzo 6 1984: Harbour Island 3 & 11 X Febru 20-1 (M Stoute) 15 rm

Bertbings 7-4 Heart, 9-4 Zelorum. 6-1 Renzo, 6-1 Stuiney Ventere, 8-1 Belmanta, 33-1 Zuso Flyor, 50-1 Brick Court, Hayling-Billy, Parvala Percival 4.00 UPHAN HURSERY HANDICAP 2YO 71 C3,944

OUPHAM MURSHEY HANDICAP 2YO 7Y C3,944

(400 GREENWICH FORE (15) T MIDs 9-7

OSSO TRACOZ (16) C Brown 9-7

BSO SAFFRON ROSE (9) M Biarshard 9-7

SSO SALS ST JOHN (16) M Ryon 9-8

DO DITE JAMBOREE (16) L Curran 9-5

DOTIO STALL WE GO (9) [D1) R Hennon 9-5

DOTIO STALL WE GO (9) [D1) R Hennon 9-7

2710 R MORENISTICUE (24) (5) [D5) [BF] R Hennon 9-2

OSS NO CORRIGHT (30) M Bod 8-13

DAGO MORENISTIC (25) P WANT 8-12

DO RACING HEART (22) P NAMIN 8-12

DO P CHARLE (25) J January 8-12

OSSO V I P CHARLE (25) J January 8-10

SGO I BACKES TO PLASS (7) (78 eq) C) Miss Say Kelloway 8-9

OSSO WILLESS COP (6) B Menha 8-8

OSSO WILLESS COP (6) B Menha 8-8

OSSO WILLESS COP (7) W Poliplace 8-8

OSSO SANCERORY (44) M Februsian-Godley 8-8 _J Fortune 10 _B Deyle 15 _R Adams 14 _A Clark 5 _O Urbins 8 _R Parkem 1 _Dame O'Neill 4 ...F Lynch (3) 94 ...D Harrison 16

nine Trends 8 9 W Woods 7-4 (M Proceed) 14 res

7 3-06-Li ASHANTI DANCER (39) M Hayner 5-2
B 531020 HOMORABLE ESTATE (15) (20) R Hayner 5-2
9 006 OCTAVIA MILL (39) P Harra 6-13
10 250-34 Set DANCEG (8) J Bridger 5-13
11 46020 ASHASADOR (17) G Bridan 5-11
12 502-10 WIRE ACT (92) Mariya Meade 6-11
13 5-001 SOCRETY MADIC (68) sen) (11) (20) Beiding 5-11
14 452 FOREIGN RELATION (16) P Webber 8-10
15 50400 BIOL CAMARD (7) (02) B France 5-10
16 50400 BIOL CAMARD (7) (02) B France 5-10
17 50180 CANORO (20) G Beiding 3-10
18 FORM TIPS Octobria MS 8, Amber Fort 7, Society Magic 8
1986 Sentro Commit 30 2C Reitler 13-10 (16) Cambrid 15-10
1986 Sentro Commit 30 2C Reitler 13-10 (16) Cambrid 15-10

1996: Sharp Cennul 3 9 2 C Rettler 19-1 (H Canely) 16 ran Bettlags 7-1 Society Mage, 8-1 Potos Rhythm, Foreign Relation, Amber Fort, 9-1 Serious Sensation, 10-1 Octave Hell Ca d'oro Papiums. 5.05 LENES LIMITED STAKES (Amakoum) 1m St 108yda 62,081

Liftes Y Haynes T McCarthy 7 Lifts J Manghito TOP FORM TIPS: Ayunti 8, Fairy Kright 7, Raisin Clover 6
1995: Keep Year Distance 5 10 7 Miles H Dadgees 9-4 (Mire M Reveloy) 15 ree
1995: Keep Year Distance 5 10 7 Miles H Dadgees 9-4 (Mire M Reveloy) 15 ree
18-15 Spaning Mouse, Faire Dan, Ele Agapi Mou
18-1 Spaning Mouse, Faire Dan, Ele Agapi Mou

Blinkered today for the first time. HEXHAM: 2.15 Latvian; 3.50 Little Redwing. LINGFIELD: 1.20 injazant; 2.20 Caspian Morn; 3.25 Zaforum; 4.00 Fan of Vent-Axia, Midatlantic, Running Free. NEWMARKET: 3.05 Resounder.

Results

1.30 (1an 4f): 1, EVIDENCE IN CHIEF, D Harrison (7-1), 2, Once Bore For Luck (4-1), 3, Oniet Brich (12-1), 5-2 lav Lob. 13 ran Shd. 2, ID Elsworth Toto: £17.30, £3.70, £1.40, £4 80, Dual F £35.60 CSF £40.88 Tho: £65.60, NR: Broughlons Champ, Brown Eyed Girl, Kaştin Homm, Otto E Mezzo, Squandamania.

Squandamenta. 2.00 (77): 1, MASHMAER, R Hills (6-1), 2, Courtainly (11-4 Livir 3, Red Cauerd (4-1). 16 ren 18, 1, (Seed bin Surcort Tote 16.40: 22.00 £180, £160 Dual F 86.10, CSF 221.83. Trio [25 80 NR: Bedount Honda. 2.85 (5f): 1, MELIKSAH, G Faulkner (9-2) 2, Hattab (6-4 fav): 3, Anakoto (15-2). ran 1k, 3 (M Bell) Toto: 06 00, 02.00, 01.36 02.80 Dual F: 02.80 CSF 011.36. Tricas 045.03. Tric 018 60

z=5.US. 1710* £18 60 3.06 (5/1)* 1, CSOFT POOL, G Carter (4-1): 2, Blace Iris. (11-4) f 4v). 3, Ausio (11-4); lav). 5 ran 3, 1. (J Glover) Tote: £5.40; £2.60. £1.40. Dual F: £7.00 CSF: £13 50. NR: Easy Bollar.

Dollar. 2.40 (67: 1, BAHABIAN BOURTY, L Dettori (7-4 fav). 2, Muchoa (16-1). 3, In Command (8-1). 11 ran Hd. 1. (D Loder) Tore: £26, £150, £29, £2.80. Dua F: £30.70. CSF £27.94, Trior £37.70. Non Run-mer Usay. ner Jhazi 4.15 (1m): 1, YEAST, R Cochrane (11-2). 2, Restructure (7-21a*). 3, Testenia (20-1) 9 ran. 18, hd. (W Haggas) Tote: 05 60; (2.00. 17:0: 25 50. Dual F. (11.50. CSF. 223.00. Trio: \$189.60

4.50 (57): 1, SWYNFORD DREAM, L Do-tori (7-2), 2, Literary Society (10-1); 3, Staining Cloud (3-1 lev), 15 ran 1K, nc. (4 Bottomley) Tote C5 30; £1,90, £3,70, £2,00 DualF: £40,40 CSF £39 75, Tricast £115,66 Dual F: Gauss Co. Tric: ES9.10. NR. Spiring JACKPOT: Not won. E32,005 61 carried for-word to Newmarket loday

MARKET RASEN 2.10 (2m 1f 110yds Cb): 1, CAPTAIN (CHEDIVE, Guy Lowis 12-5 lav): 2, The Yokel (16-1): 3, Circulation (25-1) 4 ran, 38, 13, (Phicholip) Tote C1 50, Duai F 24.20, CSF: C5,88.

CSF: C5.98.
2.45 (2m 1f 110)ds Hdle): 1, MISTER
FM, C Llewellyn (6-4): 2, Machent (15-2):
3, Jasen Bod (8-1): 5-4 lav Anabranch. 11
ran. 18, E, M Twiston-Daves; Tote: C2.70;
C1.60, C1.70, C170, Dual F £12.60, CSF: \$15.0 (No E13 10.

\$1.5 (2m 1f 110yds Ch): 1, JATHIB, D
Byrne (5-2): 2, Strong Promise (4-9 lav);
3, Sharp Sensation (12-11. 6 ran 27. 13
(Mrs Merrita Jones) Tole £2 40 £1.60.
£1 10. Dual F: £2 10 CSF £3 97.

3.50 (2m 1f 110yds Hidle): 1, NON VIN-

TAGE, W Worthington (11-2); 2, Field of Vision (3-1); 3, Eden Damoer (5-2), 7-4 lav Distant Echo. 5 ran. 3, 3%. (M Chapman) Tole 15 80; 12.30, 12.30, Dual F 16.50, CSF: 120.59. 220.59.
4.25 (3m 1f Ch): 1, THE GALLOFDPMA-JOR, N Smith (13-8 tav.); 2, Mobile Mes-senger (3-1): 3, Camp Beak (9-4): 5 ran. 2, 35. (Mrs. M Reveley) Tote: 22.60; 11.10, 11.80. Dual P. 15.70. GSF: 16.86. IT.80. Dual F: E5-70. CSF: E6-88.

5.00 (San Hdie): 1, PREDOCE SELECT, C
Llewelly: (10-11 law: 2, Jaleanto [5-1]; 3,
Ordog Sinc (3-1): 4 ran. 13, 3%. (N Twiston-Davies) Tote: (1-50. Dual F: E2-90. CSF:
£4.02.
QUADPOT: E7-80
PLACEPOT: E28.00.

TAUNTON

1.50 (2m 3f 110yds Hdle): 1, SWINGS/FITHINGS, R Farrant (6-1): 2, Second Colours (7-2): 3, General Menicity (1-2): 4, Research Menicity (1-2): 4, Research Menicity (1-2): 4, Research Menicity (1-2): 4, Research Menicity (1-2): 2, Fiscot Cache (3-11ay), 3, Heachelts (1-2): 2, Research Menicity (1-2): 2, Research (1-2): 1, Research (1-2): 1, Research (1-2): 2, Rese A P McCoy (7-4 lav); 2, Sefety (14-1); 3, Corrie NE (7-2), 6 ran, 25, 7, [M Pipe) Tote: 52,50; 51,50, 52,10, Dual F: \$7,70, CSF: 520,46.

20.46.
4.00 (2m 3f Ch): 1, ELUE RAVEN, A
Maguirs (5-2): 2, Takmar Systems (6-1).
6-4 lav Miners Rest. 4 ran. 14. (D Brace)
Tote C.360, Dual F: 52.40, CSF, Cr6.02.
4.35 (2m 1f Helia): 1, COINTOGSER, S
Wyme (4-5/av); 2, Indira (3-1); 2, Obsetly
Apparation (50-1), 7 ran. Zk, 11, (M Pipo)
Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £2.00, Dual F: £2.00, CSF72.85 MF; Indiran Wolf. QUADPOT: £11.20. PLACEPOT: £221.50.



surgery

Michael Britten in Berlin

AN WOOSNAM has been blighted by back trouble for most of his career. It

where he is talking openly o

surgery to rid himself of the spondylosis that makes hit-

ting balls and walking course such a painfu

German Masters here at the

pean No. 1. The Scot hander Woosnam his advantage by

double-bogey six and a 70 ths

left him four strokes behind

Baker, Mark Mouland, Paul McGinley, the Frenchman

Woosnam was able to play only 16 tournaments in

65th in the rankings, his low-est placing for 15 years. This year he has managed 19 and

won four times after a winter

However, in the spring his consulted a Cardiff specialist

that surgery might be unavoid able. "He told me that I had

Woosnam, "and now my back is very sore after every round.

swing properly. I cannot use my body, only my arms, and the ball is going nowhere. It is

not treatment I need, it is surgery. I am going to talk to the
specialist about it next week."
Woosnam was to have captained Wales in the Alfred
Dunhill Cup at St Andrews
but withdrew when he

place in the World Match Play

Championship at Wentworth "I could not have coped with playing 36 holes a day for two

weeks in a row," be explained. What worries the for-

mer US Masters champion is

hard to walk much more than

100 yards on level ground

without discomfort. "I get a

sharp burning sensation in

ing of mental exhaustion but

has no physical problems, and looked well set to estab-

lish his usual early domi-

nance yesterday when he holed from 10 feet to birds

the 1st and then reached the

long 2nd and 5th in two shots

Another effortless birdle four at the 13th put Mont-

gomerie within two shots of

the pacemakers. But at the

16th he paid the penalty for a

flier with his six-iron from

the rough, taking four more

to hole out, while his playing partner, the former US Open

champion Ernie Els, birdied

the hole in coming home in 31

to go three under par.

successive year.

added flexibility.

House of Orange in disrepair and divided against itself

last weekend and has his neck

in a collar. Others missing through injury include De Kock, the PSV Eindhoven de-

fender Stam and the new mid-fielder, Gastel of Feyenoord.

Gaal has been typically out-spoked about the reason for

some of the injuries, alleging that players returning from Euro 96 went on holiday with-

treated during the holidays," said Van Gaal. "I blame the medical staff of the FA but

is not a professional

Hiddink's biggest problem is among the forwards. Al-

ready minus Kluivert, Mulder, Hoekstra and Over-

mars, he discovered a further

problem when he sought replacements: resentment

over his long reliance on Ajax

players. So when in his hour of need he tried to persuade PSV to release their giant

striker Engelkamp, the club were unhelpful, saying the striker was recovering from injury and that they needed him fit for a league game next

As a result Hiddink has been forced into desperate

measures, calling up the Celtic striker Van Hooydonk who is in the middle of an un-

settling bust-up with his club

manager Tommy Burns and was last in the international

number, Guus Hiddink,

attitude.'

The Ajax coach Louis van

Martin Thorpe in Cardiff says Holland are ripe for defeat given their severe injury crisis

PEOPLE were surprised by England's victory over Holland in June, then Britain could be celebrating a double over the Dutch.

For if Wales are ever going to squeeze the mighty Or-ange, their best chance comes at Cardiff Arms Park tomor-row. The Dutch coach Guus Hiddink struggled to announce a squad of 18 fit players on Monday, and one of those, Youri Mulder, pulled

out injured the next day. Fritz Kessel, the team doctor for 22 years, describes it as "the worst injury crisis in the history of Dutch football". The particular loss of players brought up inside the mothership Ajax has forced Hiddink to abandon his slavish clon-ing of that club's fluid system and chart an unfamiliar course away from total foot-ball towards good old 4-4-2, with a diamond midfield. Add to all this the recurring prob-lems of internal politics and bruised egos, and Holland are

reading a recipe for defeat.
Of those with Ajax connections, Kluivert, Overmars, Witschge, Hoekstra, Veldman and Mulder are injured, Bergkamp is doubtful because of injury and the former captain Blind has retired.

Hiddink has partly healed the rift with his best mid-fielder Davids, who was sent home during Euro 96 for saying: "The coach should not put his head in the ass of some players." But Davids is still missing, pending, says Hiddink, his gaining a regular place in the Milan line-up. was last in the interlear place in the Milan line-up.

Bolton on top of the First Division, earned a call-up to the Wales squad yesterday when Bobby Gould named his

ovisional team to face

The former Cardiff striker

comes in as cover for John

Hartson (ankle) and Gareth

the two San Marino matches

but go into tomorrow night's

stiffer test without at least two of the men who helped

earn them. Ryan Giggs (sus-

Everton's Gary Speed

comes in for Giggs and Kit

Symons for Coleman. Shef-field Wednesday's midfielder

Mark Pembridge, though

selected, is struggling with a calf strain and Gould has put

OUGIE FREEDMAN

and John McGinlay

were, as expected, yes

terday called into Scotland's

squad by Craig Brown for the

World Cup matches against Latvia in Riga tomorrow eve-

ning and against Estonia on Wednesday.

Freedman, the 22-year-old

Crystal Palace striker, has yet to win a full cap although he

is an under-21 international;

McGinlay, 32, has scored three times in nine appear-

However, both are at the

back of the queue for the game against Latvia; John Spencer

Mens Health

ances for Scotland.

Patrick Glenn

Chris Coleman (injured).

Wales have six points from

land in Cardiff.

Taylor (shin splints).

Wales call-up for striker Blake as Gould puts trust in trauma

get Bergkamp fit, despite the fact that he has not played in Arsenal's last four games be-To compound Holland's pre-dicament, the defender Reicause of a hamstring problem. ziger was hurt in a car crash

With Bergkamp looking ex-tremely doubtful, Holland are likely to field a new partner-ship up front, the midfielder Ronald de Boer and Manchester United's Jordi Cruyff, a relative rookie at this level. At the other end, Hiddink has acted to plug the gaps in defence by calling the veteran Stan Valckx out of interna-

tional semi-retirement.

Despite all this, however,
Holland can still turn out the out injuries being reported to the clubs for treatment. "They could have been De Boer brothers, Bogarde, Seedorf and Winter. But it is Holland's umbili

cal link to Ajax which could undermine everything, and tics are compromised. The an example are in turmoil. Their worst start to any season has left them ninth in the Dutch league, the conse-quence of allowing to fester within the club a demoralis ing atmosphere which even winning the Champions League and World Club Cup could not deodorise.

The root of the problem is young black players over recent years at being paid wages that are about 20 per cent of what the likes of the De Boers and Blind are receiving. They argue that their income should be based on their contribution, not their age. Now most have left: Seedorf, 19; Davids, 20; Reiziger, 22; and at the end of this season Kluivert, 19, is going. Bogarde is also expected to depart when his contract, like Kluivert's, expires at the end

The club have desperately tried to keep Kluivert, promising to make him the best-paid player in Holland. But he has had enough of it all and

Ajax's black-and-white problem is mirrored in the disenchantment felt among the same players in Holland's dressing room when they complained during Euro 96 of part helps corealized in team NATHAN BLAKE, whose the Birmingham winger nine league goals have Andy Legg on stand-by.

Deen instrumental on putting Though the Wales manager has had his manpower prob-lems, he is hoping that the traumatic mental scars left by Euro 96 will dog his opposite not being consulted in team

> That tension now bubbles "The events of the summer are still fresh in the membelow the surface, but Ajax ory," Gould proclaimed.
> "They don't disappear that are paying the price. With their best players leaving the club so young, their youth system has struggled to quickly, and psychologically I think it's going to be tough for the Dutch." groom replacements in time Symons teams up with and Van Gaal's purchases Andy Melville at the heart of the Wales defence with the from abroad have not worked. It may take years to put national manager saluting his things right again at Ajax and patience. "Kit was very disap-pointed to be left out against in the meantime the national team, having for so long relied on this one club for San Marino but he hasn't whinged or bleated," said their manpower and inspira-tion, will feel the backwash. If Gould. "He's just got on with could well be the start of a shrivelled period for the once-

> > capped for the first time in

about giving players who may be late developers their chance," said Brown. "You usually find they are so sur-

prised and grateful that they

give you everything."

Brown refused to take shel-

ter behind the latest series of call-offs, which have deprived

him of almost half a team. "In

this business you go with what you have and put in the

work and know you've done as well as you can. That's all

Robins eyed

by Canaries

their late twenties.

WALES: Southall; Bowen, Melville, Symons, Pembridge, Robinson, Browning, Horne, Speed, Hughes, Security,

Brown calls up striking pair

Dodds, whose hot streak has brought 14 goals this sea-

son, was chosen yesterday as the Bell's Player of the Month for September. "He has a very

bright chance of playing," said Brown. "He is lively and

quick and obviously at the very top of his form."

Dodds. 27, is the latest to benefit from the manager's willingness to introduce

older, experienced players to

the international game at a

stage in their careers when

they might have thought the

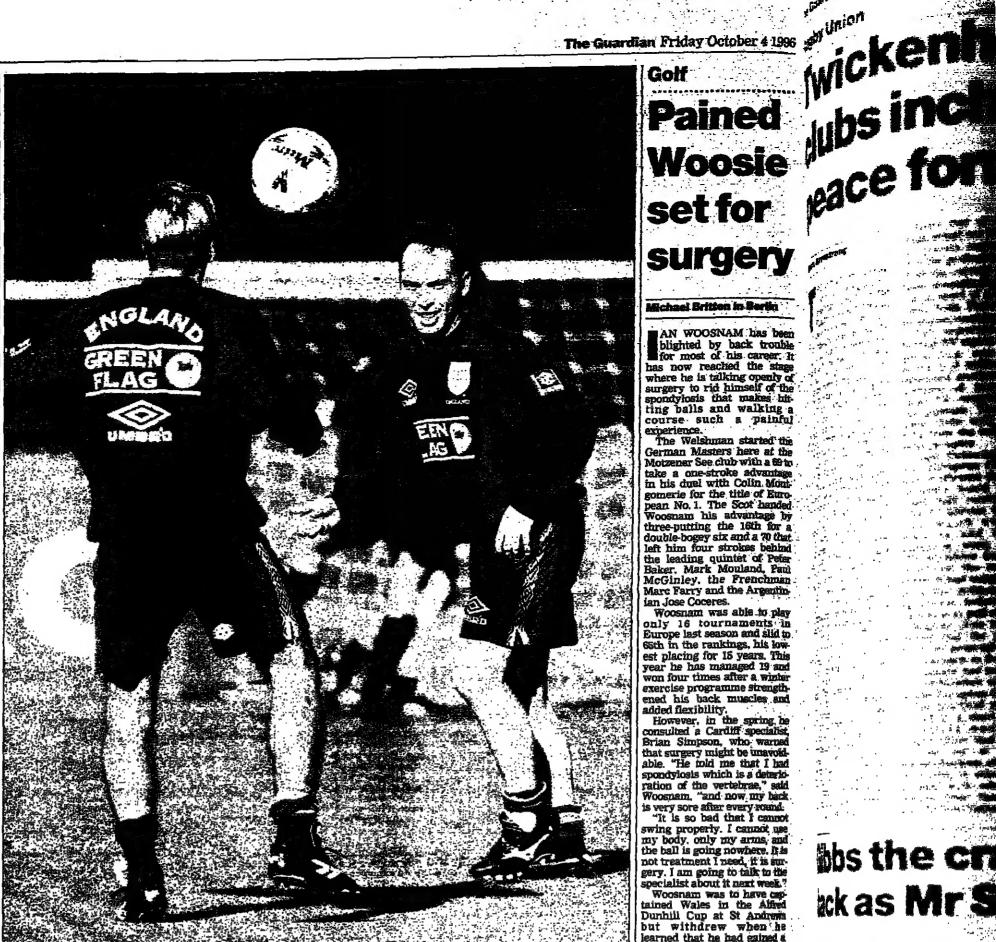
SALE

NOW

of Chelsea, Billy Dodds of Aberdeen and Darren Jackson of Hibernian are all ahead of them in the reckoning.

players, including Colin Calderwood, Colin Hendry, Duncan Shearer, Tosh McKinlay and McGinlay, have been

opportunity had passed as well as you can. That's Under Brown a number of anybody can ask," he said.



Platt eager to step up

David Lacey on a former England captain eyeing a 63rd cap and managerial prospects

the moment pursuing his profession just a few miles down the road from the churchyard that inspired Gray's Elegy. Except that now

his reverence answers to the name of David Platt. In the matter of serving numerous and contrasting masters, few footballers can have shared Platt's experience. Having collected 62 England caps under three national manager/coaches — Bobby Robson, Graham Taylor and Terry Venables —

he is now hoping to win his 63rd from a fourth, Glenn In the shorter term this will depend on whether Hoddle requires his services for Wednesday's World Cup qual-ifier against Poland at Wem-bley. With Alan Shearer now starting to score as regularly for his country as he has been doing for Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United, Platt's

HE Vicar of Bray is | ished, and Hoddle is not short alive and well and for | of bodies in midfield. It is, however, hard to imag

ine that the 30-year-old Platt's international career is in serious decline just yet. He remains England's current eading scorer with 27 goals. 16 more than Shearer, and in four European Championship or World Cup appearances against Poland he has not finished on the losing side. He may be more likely to start international matches on the bench but Hoddle could find himself in need of Platt's experience before long, and especially when Italy come to Wembley in February.

Whatever happens, Platt will take it in a stride which steadily lengthened once he had attracted international attention by coming on as a substitute to volley England's late winner against Belgium in Bologna in the second round of the 1990 World Cup. At club level he is now play-ing under a Frenchman, Arvalue as a lone match-winner sene Wenger, the new arrival may be somewhat diminat Arsenal after the sacking of

one caretaker, Stewart Houston, and the brief stewardship of another, Pat Rice. For Platt, who at Aston Villa had a Czech coach, Jozef Venglos, and at Sampdoria a Swede, Sven-Goran Eriksson, the novelty of working for

He does not believe Wenger will be in too much haste to change the way things are at Highbury. "I'm sure he will bring his own methods in." Platt said yesterday, "but I'm enough to want to open play-ers' minds first so they can accept more radical changes

foreigners were off some time

He believes that, though the influx of overseas players can only broaden the outlook of the English game, it is important that more foreign coaches come as well. "If people who want to go into management learn things off Arsene Wenger and eventu-ally pass them on, that can only be good for our game,"

Platt could be one such pupil. When his Arsenal contract ends in three years' time

pions and eight additional

nigh-placed teams meeting

Bruce Rioch, the departure of | ment. "Tve never been a manager and I don't know how good a manager I would make," he said, "but it's definitely an area I want to move

> available to buy players, but in the longer term I would like to work for a club on a shoestring budget as well."

> rial ambitions were inspired by playing for Wenger at Monaco, so Plati was impressed by Eriksson at Sampdoria. "I liked the way he put his ideas across and treated his play-

League player, Dario Gradi, is still in charge of Crewe Alexhe may well go into manage- andra after 13 years.

Two English clubs and games in July in expanded European Cup

my calf muscles as though I am climbing a mountain. All told, it does not augur "I would like to manage a well for Woosnam's attempt top club and have revenue to prevent Montgomerie, some £143,000 clear in the Volvo rankings, from finishing as European No. 1 for a record equalling fourth

Just as Hoddle's manage

ers," he explained.
"Win, lose or draw, he'd always come into the dressing room afterwards and shake everybody's hand. He would

in England some losing managers, and they are not all Scots, still shake everybody by the throat. And if the recent goings and comings at Highbury threatened to put Platt off the idea of becoming a manager, he could always con-sole himself with the thought that his first boss as a Football

August, with eight of the This week, before he joined remaining national cham an England senior squad an England senior squad for the first time, the young

Woosnam . . . sorely sub-par

competition.

THE Leicester City striker Mark Robins, unhappy at not being able to win a firstteam place at Filbert Street, may soon be on his way back to his former club Norwich City, writes Peter White.

Robins, who earned fame as a teenage goalscorer with Manchester United, moved to Leicester from Carrow Road for £1 million just under two years ago. But the 26-year-old has been forced into the background after the arrival of Steve Claridge and Ian

Robins, whom Norwich officials watched score twice in a cials watched score twice in a recent reserve match against Middlesbrough, joined Leicester shortly after Mike Walker departed, but Walker has returned as manager and may be interested in buying back Robins for a bargain £400,000.

Meanwhile Darren Ferguson, the Wolves midfielder sent off in injury time of the First Division match at Molth Wanderers' Danish midfield player Michael Johansen, has decided not to appeal against the dismissal.

UEFA confirmed last night that England will have two clubs in next seathe defending champions and the winners of Europe's son's European Cup. The move to expand the Chamseven strongest leagues will receive automatic berths pions League from 16 to 24 into a Champions League eams was formally acconsisting of 24 teams in six groups. But the expanded cepted by the Uefa executive committee at a meeting format means that a number of matches must be played during the summer, The Continent's eight strongest nations — Eng-land, Italy, France, Spain, with a preliminary round involving champions from 32 countries to be played in

Germany, Portugal, Hol-land and Belgium — will all have a second team in the

League places up for grabs.
The final pool of 24 teams
will be divided into six groups of four, with the winner of each group and the two best runners-up advancing to the quarter-· Liverpool have moved

smartly to secure the long-term future of Dominic The 16 winners then play term future of Dominic was yesterday confirme a qualifying round in Matteo, Ian Ross writes. the new vice-chairman.

centre-back signed a con-tract which will keep him for the 16 Champions on Merseyside until at least the year 2000. Liverpool's manager Roy Evans will today reopen contractual talks with an-

other England defender, Neil Ruddock, who is also likely to be offered a longterm deal. Liverpool's chief executive Peter Robinson was yesterday confirmed as

Results

in Antalya, Turkey.

PONTINS LEAGUIE First Divisions Port Vala 1, Wolvestampton 1, AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: League Cupz Artenal 0, Luten 1, MAJOR LEAGUIE Flag-offst Tamps By 4, Columbus 1; Washington DC 2, New York/Naw Jersey 1; Kansas Cdy 3, Dallas 2 (pena); Los Angeles 2, San Jose 0. Golf

GERMAN MASTERS (Berlin) Fire

Mitchell, H Thul (Ger); P Haugsrud (Nor); R Chapman. 72 F Lindgren (Swe); M McNutry (Zum). D Borrego (Sp); S Luna (Sp); P Hedison (Swe); S Bottombey; G Ort. 72 P Fulke (Swe); R Claydon; U Echhardt (Ger); B May (US); L Westwood: R Raftery; A Hunter, J Sponco. 74 M Gronberg (Swe); B Struver (Ger); J Sandellin; R Dave (Ass); A Forsbrand (Stoc); M-A Mizrin (Sp); L Jahn (Ger), 78 D Plobertson; D Hospital (Sp); C Mason; O Kartson (Swe). 78 P Moloney (Aus); 77 M Marcht (Ger); Refised: I Garrido (Sp).
Refised: I Garrido (Sp).
LA9 VEGAS INVITATIONALI First-rossed feeders (US univos sated); 62 K.

LA9 YEGAS INVITATIONALI FIRE-roume feedear (US unloss stated): 62 K Fergus. 63 P Stewart; F Funk. 64 M Sulli-van; W Lew; R Black; R Febr. 64 D Frost ISAI 65 D Fride; G Day; F Corples; J Furyic 8 Henninger; M Dawson; W Austin; D Love; V Singh (Full): O Browns; M Helmen, P Burks; W Wood: B Lietzke; L Janzon, Alsos 68 C Parry (Aus), 70 S Rintoni (Aush).

Tennis SURGAPORE OPERS Second rounds J Frana (Arg) bt G Ragus (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6, J Stark (US) bt S Schaben (Nosh) 7-6, 7-6, J Stark (US) bt S Schaben (Nosh) 7-6, M Siesser (Ger) bt M Wessiotrie (Aus) 6-2, 6-2, M Chang (US) bt N Poreira (Van) 6-3, 6-1, R Krajicak (Neth) bt P Raiter (Aus) 6-4, 6-2

LYON IMPOOR GRAND PREK: Second round: K Kucera (Stovak) by Y El Aynsoui (Mar) 7-5. 6-2. A Becetata (F1) bi A Creenoley (Rust E-7. 5-4 re).

PRIX (Leipzigt: Second rounds A Sar chez Vicario (Sp) bt M Oremans (Net 6-2, 8-1, Quarter-Testis: S Quaf (Ger) bt

PLAYOFF GARRES: Neglecal League; Al-lanta 2, Los Angeles 1 (10m/s: Allania land series 1-0) American League: New York 5, Totas 4 (12m/s: series love) at

Cricket POUR-MATIONS - ONE-DAY TOURS A-MENT (Nairobi) South Airtea 305-8 150 overs: G Kirsian 66. J Rhodos 54 h Cronje 63no. Karim 2-44. Konya 103 (25 1 overs Donald 6-23. McMillan 3-17), South Airca won by 202 russ.

HEAR SAUTHMEN SATELLITE (Nottingham): Mear Secold rounds of Wilkinson (GB) bt I Spinis (GB) B-1, 6-4; M Wyeth (GB) bt O Funces (CC) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4; A Richardson (GB) bt F Stauder (Ger) 8-1, 6-4, F Round (GB) bt F Stauder (GB) 8-1, 6-4, F Round (GB) bt B Loward (GB) 6-1, 8-4, 8-4; M West (GB) bt N Could (GB) 6-7, 8-4, A Fernmar (GB) bt A Gawritov (Rus) 1-5, 6-1, -4: R Koesing (RA) bt D Draper (GB) 6-4, 4-5, 6-1; J Fox (GB) bt P Robinson (GB) 6-3, 7-5.

WORLD TEAS CHAMPIONSHIP (Sal-ford), Group ceer K Doller II Harvey by D Kally/S Brown (US) 6-5. Group twos G Steddarf/S Burgess Dt S Downs/G Ver-rier (US) 6-1. Group trace J Lowe/C Lazaranko bt G Mawson/T Moltycake (Can) 6-5 Group four P Manley/T Kirby bt P Lim/H Gardner (US) 6-3.

Equestrianism

MORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW (Werebley Areas): Weeshay Welcome States: 1. Trudo Jannique (J. Philippars): Bail close: 49.53ec, 2. Subime (N. Skelton) of 50.69; 3. Ivoor if Malhey Jut., Belt of \$2.20. National 128ccm; 1. Air Wolf (G. Fleicher): close: 32.98cc; 2. Silver Bubbles (E. Portes): cir 33.18, 3. Lydatep Woodcock (L. Partes): cir 33.18, 3. Lydatep Woodcock (L. Partes): cir 33.18, 3. Lydatep Woodcock (L. Partes): cir 33.18, 3. Shugple (T. Davies): quipt (lib., 34.18, British Jumier (J. Morfreson): class: 35.68cc; 2. Glorn (N. Coupe): four fits: 33.83; 3. Shugple (T. Davies): quipt (lib., 34.18, British Jumier Moviese: 1 Mister Basil (K. Watte): cir 30.53cc; 2. Tribal Dancer II. Edwards): cir 32.52; 2. Sharp Shootor (G. Williams): cir 32.52; 3. Mallossal 128cement 1. Allecool Led (G. Kay): clear: 29.50ce; 2. RW/ (R. Whitaker): cir 38: 18. Mallossal 128cement; (R. Robinson): cir 38: 18. Mallossal 128cement; (R. Robinson): cir 38: 18. Mallossal 128: 11. Com-boy Magic Doep Heat (I. Whitaker): 4 fits. 31.22; 2. Darvin (G. Nie Paul): 21 fits., 43.46; 3. Belinda (H. Turrell): elimonated in jumport

LEAGUE OF V. C. (7.45).
PAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Dis-lator: Dyndaik v Starmock Rvts (7.45); Shelbourts v Finn Harps (7.45); Si Pairicks

China 3, Wales 2, Standinger 1, Egypt (P3, Pist); 2, Canada (3-5); 3, Naw Zaaland (3-5); 5, Naw Zaaland (3-5); 6, Svitzerland (3-6); 5, China (3-5); 6, Wales (4-6); 7, Kazakhetan (3-1); 2 Scotland 0, Poland 4, United Bisses 2, Scotland 0, Poland 2, Standinger 1, Poland (P4, Parl 0); 2, Irolland (3-6); 3, Italy (3-6); 4, Kenya (3-5); 5, Sanglagesh (3-5); 6, United States (3-1); 7, Scotland (3-1);

BUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP CUALIFYING: Group Sevens Wales v Holland (Nician Park, Cardin), NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First Divisions

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Friday October Golf

peace formula Robert Armstrong All working ou away by England's leading clubs from the Rugby Football Union due to take place next Friday, will be quietly shelved as the result of an outline peace formula which the two sides will flesh out in greater detail within the next fortnight. After months of stalling by

the RFU and aggressive pos-turing by the clubs, their ne-gotiators have mapped out sufficient common ground on the distribution of money to the clubs to avert a major split in the English game.

A Twickenham statement yesterday said: "The RFU has made contact with English

Professional Rugby Union Clubs in order to start negoti-ations to settle the dispute." Last night an Epruc stateheat night an approx statement said: "The clubs are pleased that, for the first time, the RFU has publicly recognised the need for it to change and adapt in order to

accommodate the needs of the modern professional game."
In contrast, the Welsh for a fresh outbreak of hostil-ities at a meeting with top Welsh clubs in Cardiff tonight. The umbrella com-pany for the clubs, Welsh First Division Rugby Limited, has received from BSkyB an offer for television rights to the Heineken European Cup in Wales; it is worth £23 million over four years. If the WRU fails to approve that of unions in other countries offer or suggest a better alternative, the clubs are threaten

ing to go their own way.

two tries with last-ditch tack-les. The reaction of the 25-

year-old after the match was

so downbeat it was almost as if he wished he had not made

and, having come from an all-

action game, it was hard to accept. I wanted to be doing something all the time."

But, after being named in the Wales squad for tomor-row's international in Rome,

Gibbs said he had been wrong in his choice of verb. "I

should not have said 'bored'.

was chosen in the Wales

squad last month he declared

that he wanted to be consid-

Equestrianism

day, the Welcome Stakes, in

which Belgians filled four of and Sublime were marginally the top six places.

Tickets available for

the return from St Helens. "I was bored," he said after emerging from the changing rooms. "There were long peri-ods when I had nothing to do Fears that several English clubs would not be able to honour players' contracts and sus-tain the professional game beyoud the current season have been dramatically reduced by the prospect of guaranteed in-come from Twickenham and television combined.

Twickenham and

Two separate offers for British TV rights to the European Cup, one from Sky worth £118 million over four years and another from a con-sortium of terrestrial and cable TV companies, are in the pipeline. They will save some clubs with huge wage bills from the looming threat of bankruntey

of bankruptcy.
Roger Pickering, the Heineken European Cup director,
also confirmed that the tournament's board of management had received a firm offer to televise the competition, which will have 47 matches and will begin tomorrow week. Last week ITV withdrew from plans to broadcast the seven-nation event; it had completed a year of a £15 million three-year agreement before exercising its option to pull out.

mitted that the pressure on clubs to generate at least £1 million each in fresh revenue this season had been eased by the imminence of a TV deal

league clubs that they stood to lose out at home and abroad because of the refusal of unions in other countries to deal with administrative bodies other than the RFU and the International Board.

Gibbs the crash-ball is

back as Mr Soft Hands

Also, it is understood that Twickenbam has made a significant increase on the £6 million earmarked for the clubs which was publicly ac-knowledged by the RFU treasurer Colin Herridge last

month. League One clubs can expect to receive £500,000 to £800,000 each this season in return for specific undertakings on the release of players for England squad sessions and international matches; that is close to double Twick enham's original offer. If the RFU also honours

ground-breaking proposal made by its secretary Tony Hallett in a letter to the Epruc chairman Donald Kerr three weeks ago, then the clubs will also retain all European Cuprevenue from TV, sponsor-ship and promotional sources from next season onwards.

Depending on the outcome of negotiations with TV, the

English clubs could look forward to annual revenue of be-tween £7 million and £10 million to be divided among participants in competition.

Meanwhile, the England manager Jack Rowell has added the 22-year-old props Will Green of Wasps and Matt Volland of Northampton to his original squad of 45 for next Wednesday's training session at Bisham Abbey. At on the European Cup.

The practical problems involved in a mass breakaway courage only five props, two of whom could not train because of interesting out scrums.



Lions must fight their own battle

Andy Wilson reports from Nadi on Great Britain's selections for | Britain will have to kick off at | Prince Charles' Park under a a slightly overshadowed first ever Test in Fiji

T IS typical of a disastrous | year for international rugby league that the build-up to Great Britain's first ever Test in Fiji tomor-row should be overshadowed by events in a Sydney

While the Lions and the Fijians carried on with their preparations for what promthe British assistant coach Gary Hetherington appeared on Fijian television and insisted that even if Super lia dub League's comprehensive legal points. defeat of February was up-held by the court, there would

ponse to suggestions that the Raiders, who withdrew last Australia at Wembley four old from Huddersfield, gets game might be postponed.

away from playing.
"I felt frustrated at certain things and St Helens made me a very good offer. I enjoyed my time in league but union is my first love and when I had the opportunity to return to Symptom I took it."

to Swansea I took it."

Gibbs left a Wales side in transition, though they went on to win the Five Nations in 1994, and has returned to find the builders still there. With forwards such as David Young, Scott Quinnell and Richard Webster back in har-ness, Wales are expected to have more backbone than in

"A few players returning are not going to make much difference on their own. Wales will only get better if the collective attitude is right and that means embracing professionalism properly. What is heartening is that

there is a genuine competi-tion for places in most post-tions now, which was not the case when I left.

"Hosting the 1999 World Cup offers Wales a marvell-ous opportunity. We have three years to make sure that we take it with both hands."

with the only clear on Lapino.
Louise Whitaker, the tal-

ented 16-year-old daughter of

John, improved on her fourth

place of last year to win the

Under-21 Championship on Cowboy Magic Deep Heat and goes for the double in today's Under-18 event.

Late on Wednesday the

Women's National Champion-

ship went to Kelly Brown on

The Fijian Rugby League, like the professional game in Britain, is firmly aligned with Super League, having been contracted along with other Pacific nations at the International Rugby League Board meeting in London in April 1995, deals which left the ARL

almost completely isolated. The ARL did manage to come up with some Fijian opposition to face the Kanga-roos a few months ago, but it was a mismatch and Australia duly ran up more than 80

Great Britain's opponents tomorrow will be a very difbe no threat to this Test.
"I think the Australian
Rugby League is just being
mischievous," he said in reslific winger with Canberra night for unspecified personal

reasons. Manoa Thompson, formerly of South Sydney and, briefly, Warrington, will take over the captaincy. Most of his team-mates, moreover, have first-grade experience either in Australia, for example the loose forward Lee Nalagilagi, or in England.

Nalagilagi was the captain when Fiji lost 46-0 to England in a World Cup match at Wigan 12 months ago, but the scoreline was a misleading reflection of a tough, competitive game, as the seven survi-vors of it have stressed in the

preparations for this Test. The odds then were stacked against the Fijians, with a 26,263 crowd welcoming Phil fierce afternoon sun; and the Fijians will be an immeasurably stronger side for an extra year's experience.
Four of them played in

Super League in England last season, Joe Tamani on the wing for Bradford Bulls, and three others for Sheffield Eagles: Waisale Sovatabna will start at full-back, Joe Dakuitoga in the second row, and Mala Yasa at prop in direct opposition to his Sheffield captain Paul Broadbent, who gains his second Great Britain cap after a solid performance in Papua New Guinea

on Saturday.

Keith Senior will be the fifth Sheffield player involved, a surprising choice on the bench for the Lions but deservedly there after two im-Larder's side back to the pressive try-scoring games on north after the victory over tour so far. Senior, a 20-yeardays earlier. Tomorrow Great his chance because Daryl

player, has been promoted from the bench to left centre, effectively in place of Joey Hayes. Alan Hunte switches to the right wing after passing a fitness test on a back injury. Two other changes have been made to the starting line-up that defeated PNG, making his Test debut in the front row in place of Wigan's Terry O'Connor, and Warrington's teenaged Paul Scul-thorpe taking over from Chris Joynt in the second row. Steve Molloy of Featherstone and Mick Cassidy of Wigan join Senior and Castleford's Tony Smith on the substi-tutes' bench.

David Plummer on the Welsh centre who Davies. "I would never turn down the chance to play for Wales, but I know I am not went North as a barnstormer but will return ready yet," said Gibbs, who won the last of his 20 caps tomorrow against Italy as a class act against Canada at the end of

Scorr GIBBS made a ing me about by playing me try-scoring return to rugby union last month, right, but I had found my true place with the Lions in New sea's victory with such poise and assurance that it did not seem possible he had been

Zealand in 1993 and that was as an inside centre. "That is the only position I coach. want to play now. If I am not good enough for Swansea or for Wales there, so be it, but I mar and he made me a much away from the game for

want to play now. If I am specified enough for Swansea or for Wales there, so be it, but I have no intention of being moved around."

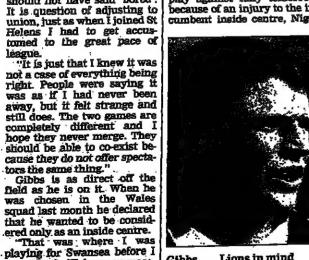
It was the Lions coach Ian McGeechan who turned Gibbs into an inside centre, moulding the strong-running back who had been employed as a crash-ball centre by Wales into a player of vision

Wales into an inside centre, by Barbarians against New Zealand in December 1993. He damaged knee ligaments and before that season ended he returning to action in Britain in January after an interval of 20 months.

Toncher, who was punished

Whereas Wales had seemed to write off Gibbs as a brainless barnstormer, McGeechan trusted the player's natural instincts. The outcome was the softest of hands, which amazed the Welsh rugby pub-lic and cost Will Carling his

place in the Test side. Though Gibbs has not been leaping in the air begging to be picked by Wales, he will play against Italy tomorrow because of an injury to the in-



went North. Wales were mess-

Philippaerts leads off for Belgian raiders

Near the end Nick Skelton

"My aim is to become a permanent fixture for Wales, and there is a huge incentive next summer because the Lions are touring South Africa and Ian McGeechan is again the

As well as scoring a try, Gibbs, who at 15st-6lb was considerably bulkier than when he left Wales in the spring of 1994, was his side's attacking fulcrum and saved tree tries with lest-ditch tack.

As well as scoring a try, for Wales there, so be it, but I have no intention of being moved around."

It was the Lious coach lan the made me a much better player. To tour with the Lions is still the pinnacle of a rugby player's career and I will be going all out for a place in the squad."

Gibbs into an inside centre, Sibbs's last annearance in

recent years but Gibbs ad-

vises caution.

of 20 mouths.

Jansher, who was punished for not trying while playing last year for his Cardiff team in the semi-finals of the Super League, will now line up in a squad containing the England internationals Simon Parke and Tony Hands and a top-20 Franchman, Julian Bonetat

Mark Miles, the chief execu-tive of the ATP Tour, has warned players that they face instant ejection from tournaments for abusive on-court behaviour. In an open letter Miles said: "We will not toler ate a player's verbal or physi-cal abuse of an official, fellow player, member of the media or spectator."

In August Andre Agassi was kicked out of the RCA Championships in Indianapolis. During his match against Daniel Nestor he cursed officials and slammed a ball into the stands.

Hockey

Wales crashed to their second defeat in four games at the World Cup preliminary tour-nament in Sardinia yester-day. Simon Organ and Mark Smith scored their goals in their 3-2 defeat by China in Pool A. Wales face Canada

Chass

England's fourth board, the 22-year-old Matthew Sadler from Chatham, has won an individual gold medal at the Erevan Olympiad, writes Leonard Barden. He follows John Kerr at Wembley

Some in the 40-strong field treated this one-round class as a warm-up for the tests ahead, but the Belgians had other ideas and François Mathey set a strong pace on I woor in the first of 14 clears.

Near the end Nick Skelton with the only clear on Langue the previous English winners John Nunn (1984) and Nigel Short (1986).

Sadler's 81 per cent score was the second-best of the Olympiad, ahead of Garry Kasparov's 78 per cent on top board for Russia. Susan Lalic of Sutton took the top-board women's bronze.

Cricket

Australia's fast bowler Craig McDermott will miss the first three of five home Tests against West Indies in November and December be-Gulliver with the faster of two cause of a knee injury. He will faultiess rounds in a three undergo surgery next week to







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SportsGuardian

UNITED'S MANAGER TAKES THE STAND AT BLACKPOOL TO CONDEMN THE FA



One goal, lots of balls . . . Tony Blair and Alex Ferguson under fire at Blackpool yesterday where the United manager had some harsh words for the FA

Old Ferguson, new moan

John Duncan hears a party conference outburst over the Premiership fixture list

added his twosunyworth to the ixtures debate and bacle yesterday. ther into the weekend's pro-gramme, leaving only four First Division matches, the about that," said Ferguson, Manchester United manager | speaking at a Labour Party | European game? That rest

LEX FERGUSON | launched an attack on the Football Association for failing to prevent United and Liverpool meeting in a Premier-ship match on Saturday week,

European action.
"There is something crazy

Continental teams are given resting time and easy games before Uefa competitions, the programme in England carries on regardless.

"You need rest to prepare ganise a team to the maxi-mum if I am playing Liver-pool on the Saturday before a

Conference fringe meeting. "I factor, that mental strength don't know who organised it you get by relaxing the Italbut the FA needs to look at it." He is furious that, while years. I don't say we should you get by relaxing; the Italians have been doing it for choose who we play on the Saturday before, but someone should prevent us playing

"Ask yourself what has happened in the last 10 years 9 11679 has become the most power-ful European nation? The two best club sides in Europe are Italian: Milan and Juventus.

earned what the Brits were good at 10 years ago and have added power to their tech-nique, absolute power. We cannot catch up because we don't have the time between matches. Playing matches ers, practice does." Ferguson said he would like

Juventus we were over-

ocwered. The Italians have

rerguson said he would like to rest several players before important European games but, because of the strength of the Premiership, he could not afford to. "The last thing I want is a defeat by Liverpool before we go to Europe."

He also criticised the FA's stitude to youth players

attitude to youth players, questioning the worth of its Lilieshall School of Excellence — "It's well meaning but where is the evidence of success? - and damning its blueprint for youth football, which forbids United to coach boys who live more than an hour's drive from Old Trafford

"We are expected to com-pets with the best in Europe but Ajax can take a kid from London who isn't allowed to

When Laura J Hird had her first story accepted by Rebel Inc. she received two pages of comments from Kevin Williamson:

when a friend's

turned down.

she received

four pages

of detailed

instead of a

The Malcolm

McLaren of

rejection slip.

literary Edinburgh

criticism

story was

"When we were beaten by I having to work in a parochial system of producing players which seems crazy.

Much the same might be said of the disintegration of the First Division pro-gramme, Yesterday Crystal Palace and Bolton lost further players and won the right to

called into Scotland's World Cup squad and Nathan Blake summoned by Wales. That took their absences to four. one more than needed to get a postponement. Tomorrow's match at Oxford has been rescheduled for November 19. Palace already had four players on international duty

but, having first said they would fulfil Sunday's game against Sheffield United about that 'Labour's coming regardless of under-21 call-ups - a rule extension that came into operation only this week - they found the League holding them to it when they changed their mind this week. But the League relented when Scotland added Dougle Freedman to their senior squad and Robert Quinn was included in the Republic of Ireland Under

21 squad. come to Manchester to be coached and trained. We are More soccer, page 14

Party tricks with the world game



Vincent Hanna

Blackpool was a co-median, but they all up joke about ethnic minorities be said: "Tell me three clubs with swear words in their titles."

He scarcely drew breath:

'Arsenal, Scunthorpe ... and

""" Manchester United." I laughed, deducted 5p from his tip and kicked his tail-light in I tried this joke at the Labour Party Conference and found that it sorts out the sbeep from the goats. (Actually I'm not sure I'm allowed to say that. Under New Labour goats are treated as sheep who come from broken home There are many football enthusiasts in Blackpool, some slightly demented (Alistair Campbell supports Burnley), but the party has not worked out whether it is good policy to celebrate it in public.

Clare Short regularly up-braids her colleagues about "little boys' games" and Bar-bara Follett's laughter at my joke seemed alightly uneasy. But then she is standing in Stevenage, where football is not a laughing matter.

Your trouble," said Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham. "is you have failed to spot the difference between New Labour and *Nouvelle* Labour. In the former you can pudding. With the latter you get good presentation but very little to eat. Football has too

many calories I raised all this with an important woman in a smart suit with shoulder-pads like a Green Bay Packer. 'Did not your leader bang on about football?" I asked. "What

home' stuff on Tuesday?"
"Alistair puts too much of that stuff in," she snapped, then looked faintly alarmed. "Look, Tony is a keen football supporter," she said, "but in a caring way." And she fled. They have a point about the laddish tendency. Labour's National Heritage team,

which includes sport, contains two un-reconstructed lads. Jack Cunningham and Tom Pendry were actually in the last Labour Government. Cunningham is a serial New-

therapy from the Charity Shield, and Pendry is respected in football circles

He is also popular in the party, not least because he can get tickets to almost anything. I have poked fun at him in the past, mixing his name up with lain Sproat, the Sports Minister. But his rehabilitation began yesterday when he brought Alex Ferguson to the Labour Party Conference.

From his youth Ferguson has been a committed Labour supporter. He once led a strike of AEU apprentices at Remine ton Rand's factory on Clydeside, and not for pecuniary. gain either. "We met in the gents' toilet, II of us. Appren-tices from all over the country were coming out and we had to support them." This secondary action was passed on his casting vote. It would be illegal to do that under present law. Come to think of it, he needed a two-thirds majority

In July he asked Eric Can-tona to donate his Cup final shirt to a party fund-raiser in the Savoy. It sold for £17,500, paid by Brian Davies who do nated it (and also one from Ryan Giggs) to the Interna-tional Fund for Animal Welfare, which put them in a safe

remain. Enter Steve Morgan, another Labour businessman. Yesterday he persuaded IFAW to raffle the shirts for

fans in the North-west. The man who will most benefit is Phil Woolas, the candi-date for Oldham East and Saddleworth, where part of the proceeds will go. Woolas is definitely a member of the lad-

dish tendency, and I said so. "Actually I'm a *new lad*," he replied, "and to coin an interesting phrase: the shirt is coming home.'

T THE fringe meeting Ferguson kept to footreduce the number of matches and told how Cantona had re-taught the team the virtues of practice. "You cannot learn football by play-ing matches," he said. "Maybe we had forgotten that." I wondered if he had any coaching tips for New Labour and Tony Blair. "Tm looking for tips from him," he said fraternally. After the fringe meeting I got the train to Manchester. The taxi-driver told me he would be voting Conservative. "Look at all this," he said, airily waving at a forest of small hotels, boarding houses

and hamburger joints. "Labour will give all this It sounded good to me.

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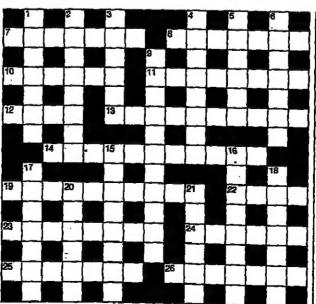


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Set by Rufus



Across 7 Injured fliers returned to

base (7)

8 The crown takes a firm course, if backed (7) 10 Bill comes back with a new

11 How to win a ballet competition? (2,6) 12 Written authority for many

jazz? (1.0) 14 Newly leased building for sheep (11)

of a deal (6.4) 22 Turn on a fool (4) 23 Sad passage to quote in

tum (8) 24 Run off at outset of disturbance (6)

25 The Spanish are after an adjustable clasp knife (7) 26 Unusually angered and upset (7)

Down 1 Stick to the point as a junior coil of fabric (6) diplomat (7)

2 A drink - Ben has it as a 3 Show improvement with

respect to criminal record (6) to strike (4) 4 Calm artfully created (8) 13 Currently the chief form of 5 He is or could be a

shopkeeper (6) 6 Not involved in fight, so not 19 I've acted on new indication charged (7)

9 A copper collection? (6.5) 15 Covered outhouse full of 16 Injury received in turning over? (3-5)

17 Go for the money first (7)

18 It may wilt and droop in the

20 One way to get inspiration (6) 21 Avoided potential duel with editor (6) Solution temorrow

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